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Cotton Pinx.

SHIPWRECK.

"And lo! the leaks o'er all their powers prevail."

Page 24.

Scott Sculp. Edin.

VOYAGES

TO

PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SICILY, MALTA,
ASIA-MINOR, EGYPT, &c. &c.

From 1796 to 1801;

WITH AN HISTORICAL SKETCH, NOTES,
AND REFLECTIONS.

By Francis Collins

THIRD EDITION,

WITH A FINE ENGRAVING.

By FRANCIS COLLINS,

FORMERLY LIEUTENANT OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP,
DOLPHIN.

"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in
great waters: these see the works of the Lord, and his
wonders in the deep."—Ps. ciii. 23, 24.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. HATCHARD AND SON, L. B. SEELEY, W. WHITTE-
MORE, DARTON AND HARVEY, WILLIAM BAYNES AND SON,
JAMES NISBET, AND D. J. HOLDSWORTH, LONDON; AND
JAMES ROBERTSON & CO. PARLIAMENT SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

1822.

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RECOMMENDATION

TO THE FIRST EDITION,

BY THE REV. JOHN CAMPBELL, KINGSLAND, NEAR
LONDON.

THE author of the following Journal favoured me with a perusal of the manuscript before sending it to press.

The countries which he visited are the most highly renowned in antiquity, and respecting which, all who value knowledge are anxious to obtain every information.

Young readers especially, will derive much information concerning those countries ; for the author not only relates their present state, and the circumstances which happened while he remained at different places ; but he likewise furnishes an abridged detail of their ancient history. I would earnestly recommend this volume as a suitable present to officers in the navy, seamen in general, and persons about to undertake long voyages ; it will both amuse and edify.

That it may be a means of doing much good, is the sincere desire of

JOHN CAMPBELL.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

PREFACE

TO THE THIRD EDITION,

BY THE REV. RICHARD MARKS, AUTHOR OF THE
RETROSPECT, NAUTICAL ESSAYS, &c.

AMIDST the many and expensive volumes of Voyages and Travels which have come forward, and obtained much public notice, few of them have attempted to improve the heart, while they were endeavouring to gratify and inform the understanding.—This circumstance, as well as that of the size and expence of many of them, has curtailed their usefulness among the lower orders and younger part of our readers. Mr Collins' little book is free from both these charges. Its reduced size will throw it within the reach of most people who are fond of reading Voyages and Travels; and the reflections interspersed throughout the Work, will, under the blessing of the Almighty, benefit their souls.

Having myself traced and retraced all the ground, and witnessed all the scenes recorded in the following pages, I can vouch for the authenticity of the narrative; and the soundness and scripturality of the reflections, will, I think, recommend them to every sincere and christian reader.

As a publication, this little Book makes no pretensions to literary eminence; nor does it aim at display by relations of the marvellous. It is a plain and pious account of real facts, told in such a way as is likely to interest and improve the reader, by leading his mind from the works of nature, and the transactions of men, to contemplate the wisdom and goodness of the Creator and Redeemer of the world. That it may prove such to every reader, is, I doubt not, the Author's first and most anxious prayer, as I am sure it is that of the reader's

Very humble servant in the Lord,

RICHARD MARKS.

VOYAGES, &c.

CHAP. I.

*Departure from England—Arrival at Gibraltar—
Brief Description of this extraordinary Rock,
and its Inhabitants—Storm.*

WITH a favourable wind, we set sail from Plymouth, in the latter end of November, 1796. The expectation of exploring distant lands alleviated that sympathetic regret, ever attendant on a separation from near and dear connections, and to one's native country. While imagination was busy in picturing to itself those interesting and delightful scenes we were expecting to realize, Divine Providence, in the course of a few days, conducted us safely across the Bay of Biscay, and, at the end of a fortnight, to our first destination, Gibraltar.

The morning of our discovery of the Streights, which takes its name from this stupendous rock, was serene and delightful, and ushered in as fine a day as smiles on the thick ears of corn in our beloved country at Midsummer. The noble Bay of Cadiz, the African shore, the double and triple ridges of mountains on one side, the more level and cultivated shores of Spain on the other, of this wonderful inlet from the ocean, and towering above all the other mountains, or perfectly distinct from them, the Abyla, and others, present their huge summits, and stand durable monuments of nature's grandeur. With such magnificent and interesting views before and around us, did we pass from the Atlantic Ocean, through this funnel, or strait, to Gibraltar.

Straits of Gibraltar and Vicinity.

This remarkable rock is situated about the lat. of 36 deg. in the south part of Spain and of Europe, on a remarkable peninsula, and when considered, both to its external and internal appearance, is one of the most extraordinary in Europe. But as this place has been well described by other and more able pens, and as this is but the beginning of various eventful voyages, several of which will require much elucidation, I would be cautious of intruding on the time and patience of the candid reader, by repetitions which are uninteresting; and would here observe, once for all, that my aim is rather to give a brief history of the countries, and places I have occasion to treat of, than an elaborate disquisition.

The town of Gibraltar is situated at the north part of the rock: it consists principally of one street, about half a mile in length. The inhabitants are numerous, consisting of a greater variety of nations, perhaps, than is to be found in any other town of the same population: here dwell together English, Spaniards, Portuguese, Jews, Italians, Moors, Genoese, &c. &c. and in one respect, at least, that of amassing wealth, they generally appear to act in concert.

The air is friendly to the constitution, and the soil, where there is any depth, very fertile, producing with little cultivation, excellent fruits, vegetables, and herbage. The inhabitants are in general well supplied with live cattle, poultry, and fruit, from the opposite coast of Barbary, and from the Spaniards: but in time of war these supplies are much contracted, and sometimes stopped: at those seasons Gibraltar represents a ship on a long voyage, whose crew are obliged to live on salt provisions, though with respect to vegetables the stationary company have a decided superiority over their brethren on the ocean.

Description of Gibraltar.

Having a few days to remain in the Bay, I availed myself of it to view the structure and position of this rock, and its interior construction. The east part, facing the Mediterranean Sea, is almost perpendicular, appearing as a mountain, divided by some dreadful convulsion. The north side is likewise a lofty precipice ; its summit appears to project over its base, adjoining which is an extensive plain or sand, which connects Gibraltar with the interior of Spain. The whole of this part of the rock is fortified, having port-holes excavated, whereby heavy pieces of cannon are mounted within the solid rock, covered similar to those in a ship. At or near the termination of one of these rows of ordnance is a spacious hall. The west side, on which is the town and other buildings, and the principal cultivation, (being in several parts well laid out in gardens, &c.) is by far the most delightful part of Gibraltar. Without the town, to the north, is the old harbour or port, which is the best anchorage ; adjoining this mole commence those fortifications, the principal of which was rendered so effectual in repulsing and destroying the floating batteries during the last siege. From the south part to the new mole is a pleasant road ; behind this mole and the arsenal are spacious barracks and an hospital, which makes a handsome appearance : from hence to the southermost part, called Europa Point, are various other buildings, with several gardens.

The top of this interesting rock is divided into three hills, and is very barren : upon these hills are erected watch and signal-towers. When the day is clear, the spectator is here presented with one of the grandest views imagination can well conceive. The mountain of Abyla, capped with snow, the pleasing verdure on the coast, a large extent of the African shore, with prodigious ridges of mountains, the handsome appearance of Ceuta, and adjacent country, the

Sublime View from the Top of the Rock.—A Storm at Gibraltar.

Streights, with the shipping, the fine Bay of Gibraltar, the town of Algeziras, and the beautiful spot of the orange-grove St. Roche, on a pleasing eminence, and the vast mountains behind it, the town, and public buildings of Gibraltar, with the grateful verdure around interspersed with trees, and pleasant and safe walks contrasted with the precipices and ruggedness on which the spectator stands, which in many places are undermined by subterraneous caverns and avenues, and by a turn of the body, the vast prospect to the eastward, with a delightful country, highly ornamented with cottages and vineyards, and an extensive view of the Mediterranean Sea, these, and many other objects included in the view, present the astonished spectator with something of the magnificence, sublimity, and beauty of nature; and the heart attuned to gratitude, will exclaim with the psalmist, "Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man that thou visitest him?"

The caverns alluded to above, are remarkably curious and interesting, especially that of St. Michael's. This singular and extraordinary phenomenon is situated in the western side of Gibraltar rock. The entrance is small, being about the size of a common arched door-way; this construction heightens the effect of the interior, for on leaving the threshold, the visitor is surrounded with variegated scenery, a pleasing assemblage of statues, labyrinths, animals, buildings, &c. which connected with the solemn gloom, murmuring, and dropping of the petrifying waters, and the impending roof, with the avenues in various directions, call the thoughtless to consider.

I shall conclude this account of Gibraltar with a sketch of a dreadful storm which happened while we were there. It began with light winds, attended with thick and gloomy vapours, which entirely eclipsed those interesting scenes we had hitherto been admiring; suddenly followed by rain which admit-

Effects of the Storm—Providential Escape.

ted but of few intervals for the space of a week ; it often poured down upon us as in torrents, and the storm raged in all its majestic fury. The whole fleet in the bay were suddenly in motion, and the sound of alarm and distress were reiterated in every direction. The active Mariner, with his usual courage and agility, mounted the tackling, and laboured manfully to ease the towering masts ; every power of the body and mind were called forth into exertion, to provide and prepare against the fearful storm. Several of the ships being forced to sea, were precipitated into still greater danger than those at anchor ; and during this first dreadful night, one of the finest ships in the British navy was literally dashed to pieces, on the tremendous rocks of the opposite shore of Africa, and near four hundred valuable seamen perished. The remainder that were forced out of the bay were all preserved, and returned to harbour soon after. Many and dreadful were the dangers that several in the bay were exposed to ; our case was amongst the most alarming. A sudden gust of wind which came down the rock with incredible violence, parted our cables, and hurried us to the opposite shore under the batteries of Algeziras. Providentially here the last anchor brought her up, and secured us from driving on shore : the night was dark, the storm continued, and reduced us to impending shipwreck and captivity ; but O ! for gratitude truly to praise that Almighty Sovereign, who “ maketh the clouds his chariot, and walketh upon the wings of the wind.” The rising day introduced rising hopes, for when all human efforts were entirely useless, the gust ceased for a short time, and then blowing immediately after from the opposite point, in the short space of an hour brought us into complete security.

CHAP. II.

Departure from Gibraltar—Visit Lagos—Arrival at Lisbon—Description of Lisbon, and its Vicinity—Air—Soil—Fruits—Population—Manners and Customs of the Inhabitants—Government—Gardens.

THE storm was succeeded by weather remarkably fine, and after a stay of ten days at Gibraltar, we proceeded for the coast of Portugal,* and before my return to the Mediterranean, opportunities were afforded of sailing its whole extent, and of visiting its principal ports. Our first anchorage was in the Bay of Lagos, near Cape St. Vincent; a place more remarkable for the monuments of superstition, than for that industry and agriculture which denote a people prosperous and happy. A supply of fresh water being wanted, but a dangerous bar preventing the ship

* What an increasing interest has been excited in this Country since the Writer's visit; what a field of reflection to the patriot, philosopher, politician, philanthropist, and christian, opens on the view: what intelligent mind but must be drawn to behold, and tracing effects to their causes, acknowledge, that the rise and fall, changes and mutations of kingdoms and states, are producing this solemn and striking lesson to themselves, while it calls loudly on others to consider, "that righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a disgrace to any people." And how will the christian acknowledge with gratitude, admiration, and joy, that Almighty arm which over-rules the shaking of nations, the rise and fall of empires; and which in the recent convulsive struggles of the states of Europe especially, has eminently "caused the wrath of men to praise HIM;" in clearing the way for the full introduction of that "kingdom which is not of this world," and to the accomplishment of which, all events must be made subservient.

Lagos and its Vicinity.

from approaching the harbour, the author was deputed with a message to the Governor, requesting a supply of water and vegetables. He was received by this gentleman with hospitality, and arrangements were immediately made for those necessary supplies.

Having completed our stock of water, and added thereto a variety of fine fruit, we proceeded for Cape St. Vincent and the western coast. On this Cape is built one of the most remarkable monasteries in the kingdom, and the author was informed, one of the most richly endowed; but the most distressing accounts were given of the poverty and misery of many others, both convents and monasteries, several of which, it appears, can scarcely procure the necessaries of life. The females are very severely tried in these respects, the endowments having, by various means, been greatly reduced, and in some instances annihilated. The women, immured in these specious prisons, are necessitated to obtain a scanty subsistence by any exertions in their power, and often are glad to execute ingenious basket and needle-work, for the scanty pittance of two-pence or three-pence per day. A susceptible mind cannot but commiserate their situation, which in many instances is involuntary confinement, often involved in great misery. Surely the females of Britain, especially, are loudly called on to acknowledge, with gratitude to Divine Providence, the blessings they enjoy in our highly favoured land.

After a few weeks of pleasant weather we arrived at Lisbon, the capital of the kingdom of Portugal, which has a fine river and spacious harbour. On passing the bar, (which is often dangerous) a fine prospect opens, and continues to open, all the way to the upper anchorage, which is before the city; the river is navigable, and bounded by pleasing views for many miles above Lisbon.

Description of Lisbon.

Lisbon itself, when viewed from the river, appears beautiful and magnificent, rising gradually from the banks of the river Tagus; it covers several hills, and when seen in connection with the Queen's Gardens, rope-walk, and all that beautiful country in the vicinity of Belem, must excite sentiments of admiration in every intelligent spectator; but these sentiments are materially lessened on a nearer inspection, for this place is far from having that regularity in its buildings, that cleanliness in its inhabitants, or that order and industry throughout, which its distant appearance seemed to promise; and an Englishman will often perceive a striking contrast to that industry and happiness which blesses his native shore.

Our departure from, and return to Lisbon were frequent, though we usually remained several weeks at a time. I shall therefore, to avoid tediousness and unnecessary repetition, throw the whole of the observations I intend to make on Lisbon and the country into one general description.

The air of this celebrated country is well known for its salutary influence on convalescents. It is indeed friendly to the healthful and the infirm, and the invigorating breezes prevalent here, are remarkably medicinal in consumptive and other debilitating diseases; providentially preventing Lisbon from being depopulated by the ravages of epidemical distempers.

The soil of Portugal is in general not so fertile as Spain, though the country around Lisbon, St. Ubes, Oporto, &c. may vie with its fertile parts. Partly owing to the sterility of the soil, and partly to the want of a true stimulus to industry, in the encouragement of agricultural pursuits, Portugal is often very deficient in the substantial article of bread-corn; this scarcity is in some measure provided against by public granaries.

Vestiges of Earthquakes.—Inhabitants.

Their fruits are excellent, abundant and various, and their vineyards are perhaps equal to any in the world: in this respect their industry is worthy of commendation, and of imitation, by those countries whose climate and soil are congenial to the vine. The wine produced by those delicious grapes, when genuine, and taken in moderation, is justly deemed a medicine in many complaints.

The whole length of Lisbon, including its suburbs, is about two miles and a half; the breadth in and near the city about a mile; the other parts not so much. Except a few handsome streets in the city and its vicinity, it is irregularly, and in many parts, to appearance, insecurely built. The abrupt precipices, caused by the tremendous earthquakes which have often convulsed this city and its neighbourhood, form in many parts the foundation of spacious houses; the view from those windows next the chasms, strike a stranger with terror, but custom induces the inhabitants to view it, too often with thoughtless indifference.

The inhabitants are numerous, but at present, and indeed for many years past, have lost that enterprising spirit in commerce, discovery, and navigation, which so remarkably distinguished their ancestors, and rendered them so conspicuous in the annals of nations about three or four hundred years ago. Luxury, pride, and indolence, those inseparable banes, excited by an influx of wealth from the new world, soon evinced degeneracy of character:—from this has frequently originated the decline and fall of flourishing and powerful states. When man loses sight of what he is, and how he stands connected with his fellow-men—when selfishness, pride, and ignorance, subjugate and even extirpate those social affections, which endear man to man, so that if self is exalted and flattered, he cares not who falls; the inevitable consequence must be, a death-blow to all the tender ties

Superstition.

of life, and unless timely prevented, must terminate in general ruin.*

The multiplicity of images of the Virgin, and of departed saints, meet the eye in every part of the city; and the devotion paid them is strange and surprising to those unacquainted with the *plague* of their *own* heart; wax-tapers accompanying many of the superior sort are kept constantly burning; and crosses are plentifully placed in the most conspicuous situations; processions abound too, more calculated to captivate the senses than impress the heart. The unsuspecting stranger is frequently accosted by priests as well as beggars, imploring charity in the name of the Holy Virgin; and many of those mendicants, as if to add force to their solicitations, will enumerate a long list of their favourite saints. Why is this mendicancy grown into a system? Because true religion and industry are wanting.

The Roman Catholic is the prevailing religion all over Portugal, and its inhabitants are generally deeply immured in its superstitions; though blessed be God, the darkness is not so thick as formerly. The horrid tribunal of the Inquisition has lost much of its power.†

* The history of commercial states and nations calls for that attention, which is very difficult to be obtained from the busy sons of commerce. The tendency of uninterrupted commercial prosperity to luxury, and the selfish passions, is strongly marked in nations, ancient and modern. Egypt, Tyre, Carthage, Genoa, Spain, Portugal, Holland, and other countries, once raised to the summit of commercial prosperity; alas, how they are fallen!

The striking prophecy in Ezekiel, of Tyre, and Egypt, has been awfully exemplified in other countries: the intelligent and reflecting reader will pursue the subject, and often feel a trembling anxiety for Britain.

† To the honour of the British government be it recorded that in the late treaty with the Portuguese, provision is made for the abolition of this infernal engine of cruelty, oppression, and de-

The Portuguese in general seem to possess a large share of ostentation, affecting all that imaginary greatness and supercilious disdain so congenial to proud nature; deceit and revenge, in their various and dreadful forms, still stalk too often with impunity, yet it is pleasing to observe and reflect, that these evils also are much decreased of late years, and openness and sincerity of conduct prevail more and more.*

The Government is vested in the Prince Regent,† who may be considered an arbitrary Prince, though to his honour, it appears he has not exerted his power in that unjust manner which several of his predecessors have done; may we not hope that he will still further see, that the true happiness of prince and people are inseparable and reciprocal, and the only true system of government.

The most airy and pleasant parts of Lisbon are in the direction of Buenos Ayres, which is situated on an eminence rather behind the city, and remarkable for several handsome buildings in its vicinity. The aqueduct is one of those works which combine utility and elegance. By means of this majestic structure,

struction, whose history must harrow up the feelings of every considerate mind.

“Is there not reason to hope, that the wonderful events which have taken place in this kingdom of late, may (through the overruling providence of God) be subversive of the follies of the Papal religion, and at length introduce the pure worship of the gospel?”

* The reader will be pleased to find the Portuguese character still more improving in this respect; their patience, resignation, and firmness under their recent national calamities, are admirable; and were the contents of the Sacred Volume now laid open to their view, the change on the national Character would be effectual.

† Since the removal of the Prince and Court to the Brazils, the government has devolved on his principal ministers.

Aqueduct and Vicinity.

Lisbon is supplied with water; it is of considerable length, crossing a delightful vale; and by the side of the water is a commodious footpath, from whence are views of beautiful landscapes; and from the termination of the bridge, which is on rising ground, are prospects still more interesting and extensive. In the valley beneath is a fine view.

In the vicinity of this part of Lisbon are several magnificent churches and chapels, and we will select, for a short description, that called the Queen's Church. This splendid building, which has been but recently erected, appears to exhibit some masterpieces of sculpture, architecture, and painting. The front is elegant, supported with pillars of the Corinthian and other orders. Round the top are figures, intended I suppose for the apostles, most of which are in striking positions. The interior is superbly decorated, and the altars adorned with images and candlesticks, several of them made principally of gold and silver. The paintings are strikingly splendid. The great altar or place of worship, is apparently, in several parts overlaid with gold, of exquisite workmanship; and in other places with silver, richly embellished, all which being brilliantly illuminated by a number of large wax-tapers, on a first entrance especially, dazzle the eyes and confuse the mind. From hence towards the Queen's gardens and museum near Belem, are several handsome buildings, beautiful gardens, monasteries, convents, and landscapes, situated on the shore of this majestic river. I shall confine my description to the Queen's gardens and museums.

These gardens situated in a beautiful level, are generally well laid out, and form a desirable retreat during the intense heat of summer.

In various parts are rare and beautiful animals, and several extensive aviaries, containing a great

number and variety of birds, whose beautiful plumage is more remarkable than the harmony of their notes. Fountains and cascades play their pleasing waters into ponds, stocked with numbers of the finny race, whose sparkling bodies vie with the beauties of the feathered tribe. These fountains, cascades, animals, aviaries, &c. are beautifully dispersed amongst the pleasant walks, so as each to heighten the effects of the other: and as the best effects are excited by those works of art which most nearly imitate nature, the reflecting mind will here find many objects pointing to the GOD of nature—the source of all perfection.

At the termination of several walks are placed some interesting statues; among which is the Roman daughter, nourishing with her milk her almost famished parent; the story is full of interest.

CHAP. III.

Museums—Egyptian Mummy—Sketch of the History of the Tremendous Earthquake—Reflections—Second Earthquake—Vestiges—Old Lisbon—Gardens—Numerous and Prolific Vineyards.

ADJOINING the gardens is the museum containing a large and choice collection of natural curiosities; also an exhibition of valuable paintings, extensive and well arranged, all well worthy the attention of the curious. The paintings arrested my attention immediately, for the first that was presented to notice was an extraordinary representation of Constantine the Great and his army, arrested by a supernatural appearance in the clouds; if the author may presume

to give his opinion, from the effect it had upon his mind, it is one of the most striking in the collection.

The artist has so clearly and forcibly portrayed this part of Roman history on the canvas, that the spectator may, in some measure, instantly conceive the effect this solemn phenomenon must have had on the minds of the Emperor and his associates, if it be true, which many doubt. The interesting appearance in the heavens, the whole army struck with awful surprise, and held in anxious suspense, the light striking on the helmets and the horse hoofs, the horses affrighted and prancing, with their flowing manes, and the riders in consternation, and all big with expectation of the event, give the spectator a good idea of that wonderful relation.*

* Constantine was a native of Britain, and his early reign, especially, closely connected with Gaul. A short sketch of the principal events which prepared the way for his elevation to sovereign authority may here be noticed. Previous to this period, the whole Roman empire was not governed by one sovereign. A practice had been introduced for the prince to associate with him in government a partner, bearing the same title, and the same honors. Each of these again had their first officers of state, who stood in the character of heir apparent. The partner of Dioclesian was Maximian, and the two Cæsars were Galerius and Constantius. The last of these personages was a man of urbanity and honor: the former three were monsters of horrible ferocity, and of these Galerius was the chief, and prompted and prevailed on Dioclesian to attempt the extirpation of Christianity by the most violent methods.

To give a minute detail of the sufferings of the Church, even during these short periods, would fill a volume, and indeed, to relate the whole would be impossible.

But Christianity triumphed as it always must, even in the midst of the furnace of persecution, and acts innumerable prove the blood of the martyrs to be the seed of the Church: even now, Divine Providence was raising up a friend and protector for his church. "Constantius in his deportment, though apparently complying with the letter of the imperial edicts, was a real friend to the Christians, and retained them in his household as servants the most worthy of his confidence." Happy for Gaul and Britain in a season like this, that such a man as Constantius held the reins of power.

History continued.

The museum of natural curiosities is very interesting, but would require more time and abilities than the author possessed, to do justice to the inspection.

“Dioclesian and Galerius, though joined in persecuting the Christians, were yet secret enemies to each other. Galerius was all this time concerting measures for the overthrow of his imperial masters, Dioclesian and Maximian, and at length succeeded: he compelled them to resign their dignity, and retire from Court.”

“He had now only to get rid of Constantius, and then all the power he expected would devolve on himself. There were two circumstances which tended greatly to inspire this vain expectation. Constantius was in an ill state of health; and his son, Constantine, was not in Britain with his father, but kept at the court of Galerius as a kind of hostage, so that on the death of Constantius, he had only to dispatch his son, and the whole government would become his.” But there is no counsel, nor device, nor imagination, against the Lord, which shall prosper.

“The declining health of Constantius induced him to send for his son; but the crafty, cruel, and ambitious Galerius refused to give him up. Constantine foreseeing the danger to which he stood exposed, resolved to attempt his escape, which was providentially effected, and he arrived at York just before his father expired. The army, without delay, announced Constantine emperor of the West, comprising part of Africa, Sicily, Italy, Spain, Gaul, Germany, and Britain; and throughout this whole department, Christianity lifted up her head, and extended her pale.”

The death of Galerius, like that of Herod and other persecutors and tyrants, was for the Church's advantage. Suddenly, the heavy, but the invincible hand of God came upon him, and like Herod, he was eaten up of worms. Such was the effect produced by this direful affliction, that Galerius, in the midst of his tortures acknowledged his repentance, and cried out, that he would rebuild the churches he had demolished and repair the mischief he had done the innocent Christians. Accordingly, he published an Edict; and in a few days after, finished his mortal, and we may add, his monstrous career.”

“Maximan, his colleague in refined and aggravated cruelty and persecution, shortly after was suddenly seized with a distemper which prevailed over his whole body, till his flesh was consumed from his bones and his eyes started from their sockets, and being scorched with a perpetual fever, he was constrained to acknowledge the greatness and glory of Christ and his kingdom, and then miserably expired. Did any man ever harden himself against God, and prosper?”

Earthquake.

Near Lisbon is another choice collection of natural curiosities, in the possession of a private gentleman, in which is an Egyptian mummy, in a high state of perfection, although it is supposed to have been embalmed near 3000 years ago. It lies in a case made in the form of a human body, with apertures.

The awful tremendous earthquake which happened here in November, 1755, appears to have in a measure turned Lisbon upside down. The vestiges of this dreadful catastrophe present to the eye of the beholder ruins of the first magnitude, which when considered in connection with the number of inhabitants which perished in this convulsion of nature, must solemnize the powers, and arrest the attention of every reflecting mind.

The morning of the first of November, ushered in this dreadful day: it made its first appearance with remarkable and unusual serenity and calmness. About ten o'clock the awful visitation began, with a rumbling noise, resembling distant thunder; and at the same time the earth received a shock: in a moment the city and its vicinity exhibited a scene of consternation and terror; the astonished and affrighted inhabitants running here and there for safety, without the shadow of a retreat from the devouring element; while some were riveted to the spot among the gaping and closing chasms, others were swallowed up; and the wretched survivors, in distraction and despair,

“Favorable events rapidly succeeded, and placed Constantine in possession of the whole Roman empire, which terminated persecution throughout; and Christianity, so wonderfully brought through Pagan persecution, was now exposed to the danger of ease and honor, offices and emoluments inconsistent with her native simplicity and purity; and which at length degenerated into all the senseless, cruel, and degrading superstition and idolatry of the Church of Rome, during succeeding centuries, emphatically called the dark ages.” *Sabine.*

Its effects—Reflections.

petrified with terror, and before recollection returned to endeavour a retreat, rapidly followed.

The large quay to which numbers had resorted and fled for refuge, was but an illusive hope of very short duration, for here the sea also combined with the convulsions of the earth, and by encroaching in a rapid manner on its ancient boundaries, overwhelmed the whole of these survivors, who perished in the vortex. Where this quay then stood, the resort and retreat of busy multitudes, there is now water enough for ships to anchor. Forty thousand persons are computed to have perished in this dreadful calamity!

What a fund for reflection is here, when it is considered even with common attention:—here we contemplate forty thousand of our fellow-mortals quickly enveloped in one common calamity, without a moment for cool reflection, hurried to “that bourne from whence no traveller returns”—here we behold all that the delusive world is prone to call good and great; magnificence, opulence, talents, &c. all that pride could suggest, with all that power, abilities, and affluence could command; luxury and pleasure, with all its votaries of vanity; and dissipation, suddenly and indiscriminately buried in one common ruin, all consigned to this great repository, till the Archangel’s trump shall sound, “Arise ye dead, and come to judgment!”

This earthquake was followed in the ensuing month by another, which swallowed up, and overturned the precipices, tottering walls, and buildings, which had escaped the general destruction; and even as recently as the year 1791, a shock was felt, but providentially without doing any material damage, or the loss of lives.*

* Another violent concussion has been recently felt; its commencement is described to be equally alarming as that of 1755, but providentially the shock only was felt, without any dreadful consequences.

Old Lisbon and its Vicinity.

The city is again filled with inhabitants, and again exhibits, in general, vanity and dissipation, luxury and folly, and though abrupt and projecting precipices, disparted earth, and unconnected buildings, the vestiges of those dreadful convulsions meet the eye in every direction, and as it were utter a silent and powerful warning, that such events may suddenly take place again; yet such is the prevalent dissipation of thought, among the generality of its inhabitants, that their practical language, is, "to-morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant," clearly demonstrating, that unless the judgments and mercies of God lead men to repentance, they, through the depravity of human nature, tend to increase indifference. "Oh! that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end."—Deut. xxxii. 29.

Opposite to the present city, on the southern bank of the Tagus, is a village, commonly called, Old Lisbon, between which and Belem Castle, are several beautiful spots, with many warehouses; near Old Lisbon is another range of the Royal Gardens, more extensive than those already described, to which we had free access. In the vicinity of these gardens, and the village, are some of the finest vineyards I ever beheld; some of them abound with the muscatel grape, whose juice has a peculiar richness and flavor. In walking through these vineyards, near the time of vintage, you are surrounded with clusters of grapes, and many of them hanging so low, that the appetite may be satisfied without putting forth a hand to pluck them. We experienced civility and hospitality from these villagers in a greater degree than from our refined and polite friends on the opposite shore, and their kindness to our sick, at the hospital in particular, demands a tribute of respect and gratitude.

CHAP. IV.

Sail for Oporto—Description of Oporto and its Vicinity—Dreadful Effects of Intemperance—Way of Recovery pointed out—Shipwrecked on the Coast—Sufferings and Providential Preservation of the Crew—Return to Lisbon.

WE now proceeded off Oporto, to apprize our commerce against the depredations of privateers, in doing which we explored the whole coast, from the Rock of Lisbon to Vigo. Oporto is situated on the banks of the Douro, next to Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, in extent, trade, and number of inhabitants. The entrance of the river is frequently extremely difficult, on account of a dangerous bar, and rocky bottom; on this account, shipping have frequently to wait a considerable time for a favourable opportunity. On this bar, the writer was once in extreme danger, but unexpectedly and suddenly rescued from impending death, by that gracious Being, who “holds the winds in his fist, and the waters in the hollow of his hand.”

After passing this dangerous navigation, a delightful prospect opened to our view, and having just escaped danger, and being placed in security, heightened the beauty of the landscape, and ought to have raised the mind above these beauties of nature to nature's God, accompanied with language like this, “What shall I render to the Lord for his benefits.”

This river is smaller than the one we had just left, but its contraction in this respect increased the effects of the sweet perfumes from the oranges, lemons, and

River of Oporto and its Banks.

other fine fruits, on the organs of smell; on either side, the boughs were bending low with their precious burthens; this scene continues for near a mile, and then opens to view the well-built town of Oporto and its environs, with a further prospect of the Douro and its banks.

How much to be wished it were, that the diversity of scenes which visit the traveller's eye, might be so accompanied with Divine teaching, as to raise the heart to the great Author of his multiform blessings. What an improving voyage would that be, which terminated in bringing the mind through nature's beauties up to nature's God. In this light, the ocean and the river, the mountain and the plain, would become preachers; and the sweet perfumes from the orange-grove and citrons of the earth, would remind them of Him, whose very name hath the sweet "fragrance of the pomegranate."

Oporto carries on considerable trade with the Brazils, and the river is in general well filled with ships from thence, and others of all nations; so that in proportion to its extent, it may equal if not exceed, Lisbon for trade. The merchants of the factory, &c. appeared to possess that liberality attendant on generous enterprize.

The wine and fruit of Oporto ensure it a considerable trade; their vineyards are in general highly cultivated, and misery and poverty appeared less predominant than at Lisbon. Near the city is a fine quay, close under the walls of the town, where, except in and immediately after the rainy seasons, ships lie conveniently and securely; one of these seasons the author witnessed. The heavy rains at the source of the river and its vicinity, of which rains we experienced but little at Oporto, were perceived suddenly to increase, and every person connected with, or interested in the shipping, was assiduous in providing

Inundation—On Temperance.

against the approaching deluge ; but, notwithstanding that many cables were extended for this purpose, several vessels broke adrift, or loosed from their fastenings, and were hurried on shore. It was distressing to see the floating bodies of several mariners carried along by the irresistible torrent, without being able to stretch out to them the helping hand. Providentially its violence did not continue long, and we were soon rejoiced to hear, that several ships which we had given over for lost, were safe. The inhabitants near the quay at those seasons, sometimes pass from house to house by means of flat-bottomed boats.

Several of the churches are stately and splendid buildings, and the country round Oporto is very pleasant ; fish is abundant, and all the necessaries of life may be had at a reasonable rate. The inhabitants are comparatively industrious, and the higher ranks appear less supercilious and vain than in the metropolis. Their wines are excellent and cheap, yet they are not addicted to intoxication ;* indeed, temperance is a prominent quality in the generality of the Portuguese : a few grapes, with other fruit, bread, and a moderate quantity of small wine, which was sold at six pence and eight pence the gallon, afforded a good dinner to a whole family ; sometimes they have in addition a little fish, but very rarely animal food, and when obtained, a less quantity than would serve a native of Britain will suffice, with vegetables and fruit, a family of four or six persons ; in this respect they are worthy of imitation by many of our countrymen, who make it their study to pamper this appetite.

* The increasing sin of drunkenness in Britain and its colonies, especially in her ports and large towns, becomes awfully alarming ; witness the swarms of squalid persons, of both sexes, who fill the gin-shops of the metropolis, &c. which at an early hour, send forth their loose, their worse than brutal inmates, to the

Commerce of Oporto, &c.

The author was witness to several of their superstitious processions, during one of which he was brought into the dilemma of either making his obeisance to the Host, or of having his hat taken off for him, which was suddenly and rather roughly done, and he felt thankful when the whole had passed him without further molestation. At another, the levity of the spectators was not less remarkable than the gloom of some who composed the procession. The principal streets of the city were cleaned and sanded. The fronts of the houses hung with tapestry, &c.—The windows and balconies were filled, principally with females, whose head-dresses seemed to exhibit the plumage of the ostrich, peacock, and tropic bird. The writer remarked many of the ladies, at the same time, emulous to outvie each other, and apparently solicitous to pay respect to the spectacle.

Their chief exports are wine and fruit, and both in a peculiar degree of excellence and abundance, are the produce of Oporto and the neighbouring country. The wine called Port, takes its name from hence, and a person who is in the habit of drinking it genuine, can immediately detect the gross impositions practised in most countries on the credulous stranger, who too often, under the name of Port, real Port, ge-

hurt, disgust, and abhorrence of every sober individual. It is spreading its baneful influence probably at this period, with a rapidity unexampled in the history of our country, and corrupting and destroying, by its insinuating and destructive influences, the morals of all ranks among us: and, alas! is transmitted, and increasingly transmitting, by our extended commerce and communications, its pestilential ravages, almost commensurate with the globe itself.

The previously temperate Indian of America, the inhabitants of the Pacific Islands, the long-oppressed and enslaved African, and even the deep rooted aversion to spirituous liquors, so prevalent in the Mahometan, have been assailed, debased, enslaved, and destroyed, by this moral plague. O Britain, may thy exertions to spread religious and moral truth prevail!

Shipwreck described.

ruine Port, &c. swallows a variety of those malignant ingredients, which often produce diseases, especially of the nervous kind.

The air, as at Lisbon, is salubrious. The soil at Oporto, and for several leagues on the coast, is perhaps the most fertile in the kingdom. The river and its vicinity, present a beautiful landscape: and though but a few degrees nearer the equator than Britain, the language of the poet on another country, still farther south, may be applied with propriety to this one.

“ Here sea-born gales their gelid wings expand,
 “ To winnow fragrance round the smiling land;
 “ Whatever sweets salute the northern sky
 “ With vernal leaves, that blossom but to die;
 “ These here disporting, own their kindred soil,
 “ Nor ask luxuriance from the planter’s toil.”

GOLDSMITH.

Our departure and return to this coast were frequent, and during the several months of our visiting it, we had the satisfaction of enjoying much fine weather, of rendering assistance to commerce, and were gratified with pleasing views; but before our final departure, had to experience shipwreck.

The night on which it happened was dark, the swell high, and all but the watch gone to repose; and confident of security, most of them were in a sound sleep. At ten o’clock a violent concussion was felt—all were soon awake, and the cry “The ship has struck,” was instantly felt by every heart. The lead was thrown overboard, and it was soon discovered that our situation was still more perilous than we at first imagined, by finding the ship had grounded on a bank at a distance from land.

“ In dark suspense on deck the Pilot stands,
 Nor can determine on the next command:
 Though still they knew the Vessel’s armed side
 Impenetrable to the claspings tide.

Progress of Shipwreck.

Though still the waters by no secret wound
A passage to her deep recesses found ;
Surrounding evils yet they ponder o'er,
A storm, a dangerous sea, and leeward shore."

FALCONER'S SHIPWRECK.

While the pumps were clear, and the tide rising, hopes were entertained of its bearing her over the sand into deep water. The masts and yards were brought as low as possible, to ease the violence of her beating ; but, alas ! soon the doleful tidings were secretly communicated, that the ship had sprung a leak ;

" The sides convulsive shook on groaning beams,
And rent with labour, yawned the pitchy seams.
They sound the well, and, terrible to hear !
Six feet immersed along the line appear :
With ceaseless labour and fatigue oppress'd,
Dismay and anguish every heart possess'd !
Yet at their posts by terrors unsubdued,
They with redoubled force their task pursued.
The Vessel through unnumbered chinks,
Above, below, the invading waters drinks :
Sounding her depth, they eyed the wetted scale,
And lo ! the leaks o'er all their powers prevail." SHIPWRECK.

and presently after that, the pumps were choked.— It was now perceived that the violence of the concussions had stove in her bottom. The sea gained rapidly, and notwithstanding every effort to throw out the water, in the course of an hour, it caused the furniture to float as high as the captain's cabin. Nothing now of hope presented itself as to saving the ship, and the best means of leaving her claimed instant decision.

" Let all the axes be secured,
To cut the masts and rigging by the board ;
Then to the quarters bind each plank and oar,
To float between the vessel and the shore.
The longest cordage too must be conveyed
On deck, and to the weather-rails belay'd ;

Critical Situation

So those, who haply reach alive the land,
 Th' extended lines may fasten to the strand;
 That if, determined by the will of heaven,
 Our helpless bark at last ashore is driven,
 These counsels followed, from a watery grave,
 Our crew, perhaps, amid the surf may save." SHIPWRECK.

Rafts were immediately provided, and kept ready, to enable us to leave, when the ship was sinking. In providing these rafts, the writer of this account was severely wounded, and so far from being able to assist others in effecting their escape, he was obliged to be carried and supported by those whose professions prevented their more active exertions.

Our situation at length became so critical, that many were for taking to the rafts and boats, and casting themselves on the mercy of Providence, exposed to the dangers of a tempestuous element, on an unknown coast, in a dark night.

But oh! for grace to mark the hand of a wonder-working God! when the water had arisen in the ship to such an height that we were just on the eve of quitting her, an extraordinary swell buoyed her over the bank, and almost at the same moment a favorable wind sprung up, which together with the swell, urged her, like a log in the water, in a state completely unmanageable, to the main land, where we were fixed, and prevented from sinking altogether in the midst of an awful surf. Mercy still followed us, and the ship was soon thrown with one side deep in the sand, and the other rose considerably above the surface of the sea. As to attempt landing in the boats was impracticable, on account of the breakers, or violence of the waves beating over the ship, and with the foam of which we were surrounded, and often covered. We sat on that part of the ship's side next the stern, till day-light appeared, when through a thick mist, we descried a few large boats on the beach;

Providential Deliverance.

this revived us again, and as day farther advanced, and cleared away the mist, several men collected on the beach, and appeared to view our distressing situation with more astonishment than sympathy; for none of our signs were effectual, to induce them to make an attempt to relieve us. At length one of our seamen, with that generosity and resolution peculiar to many of them, offered to run the immediate risk of his own life, to save ours; the offer was accepted with gratitude. He threw himself into the surf, and the foaming billows were commissioned to bear him safe ashore!

By repeated promises, even of a hat full of money, if the spectators of our distress would launch down their boats, and attempt our release, they at length consented; but what language can describe the joy of every individual on board our ship, when their endeavours were blessed with success beyond our most sanguine expectations. The writer's especially was excited by this safe method of conveyance, for had any great exertion on his part been necessary, he would probably, have perished in the attempt; having lost much blood, during so many hours of perilous anxiety: he was conveyed to the shore in a state of debility and danger, which confined him to his bed near a fortnight, and from which it took him upwards of two months to recover.

“ Oft has the sea confess'd thy power
And given me back at thy command;
It could not, Lord, my life devour,
Safe in the hollow of thy hand.”

WESLEY.

On landing I was surprised to see my chest had been washed out of the ship, and thrown safely on the beach; our place of retreat was an extensive sand, far from any town of note. The few fishermen's houses on the beach were gladly taken possession of, and the captain, officers, and crew, formed their divisions by means of a few sails saved from the wreck.

Reflection.—Visit Cadiz.

An early opportunity was taken to convey intelligence of our situation to our friends at Lisbon, and a favourable answer soon returned.

The three weeks of our remaining in this inhospitable place were occupied in saving provisions, and stores from the wreck ; at length intelligence of our being ordered to Lisbon, was received, and vessels arrived to convey us thither. Thus did a gracious God preserve our whole crew ; my own peculiar preservation and recovery, was astonishing indeed !

We took our leave of this place with little regret, and in a few days again entered the capital, where an abundant supply of fresh provisions, vegetables, fruit, and wine, were provided for us — a striking contrast to our late distresses and privations. A ship being then at Lisbon, bound for Cadiz, we were ordered on board her, to proceed to that station ; and with a gentle breeze and fine weather, early in June, left the Tagus for that purpose.

CHAP. V.

Arrival off Cadiz—Sketch of its Ancient and Modern History—View of the City and its Vicinity—Decrease in its population—Reflections—Departure for Lisbon—Arrival at Gibraltar.

A FEW days brought us safely into the bay of Cadiz, amidst a British fleet, when I was removed to a temporary abode, on board the Admiral's ship. During my stay, though at war with Spain, the communication with Cadiz was pleasingly open, especially du-

Anticipation of Peace.

ring the period when negotiations for a general peace were on foot; at which my heart beat high in expectation, and desire for its accomplishment.

Cadiz is a place of great antiquity; its commodious harbour and situation for commerce, attracted the notice and attention of those early, and indefatigable navigators, known by the name of Phoenicians, who founded a colony here. It was afterwards incorporated with the Empire of Rome; till the decline and fall of that Colossus, when those dreadful wars between the Saracens and native Spaniards, in a measure terminated in the subjugation of the latter. The Saracens held it, till with other parts of Spain, it was reconquered by the natives; and the intruders were expelled the country. It has ever since been a place of note, especially as to commercial affairs; indeed its spacious and secure harbour, and proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, and Mediterranean Sea, may always be said to secure it a degree of notice.

“Cadiz has been considered as the Tarshish of Scripture; and the antiquities of Cornwall especially tend to prove it to have had a considerable commercial intercourse with Britain.”

The rapid succession of events, prosperous and adverse, which this city has experienced since the writer's visit, forms a prominent part of that history, fraught with momentous events, which has been reading lessons of the utmost moment to nations and individuals, during the last twenty years; events which throw into comparative obscurity and oblivion the history of an age,—which arrest the attention and consideration of every reflecting mind, and which induce the man of true wisdom to behold them with humility and hope, all tending to accelerate the introduction of that kingdom which cannot be moved, and which must eventually produce peace and boundless felicity, commensurate to the utmost bound of the habitable globe.

Its trade was considerable in time of peace. The

author visited it in the latter end of the year 1789, at which period its spacious harbour was well filled with shipping of almost every nation.--A pleasing sight! Since that time its commerce has been rapidly on the decrease, together with the power and prosperity of the whole of this kingdom. Indeed long before that period, Spain appears to have passed its zenith. Various causes may be assigned for this revolution, the first and principal of which appears to be, its extensive and unjust conquests in America, which drew vast numbers from Old Spain, a large proportion of which have found untimely death. The indolence and pride of its inhabitants may also be considered another cause of its decline. The vast influx of wealth from the gold and silver mines, and riches torn from the native inhabitants, have been the bane, instead of the real wealth of Spain. Indeed, when the conquest, subjugation, and extermination of the innocent inhabitants of many parts of Peru, Mexico, &c. are considered, it must appear a just retribution, that so many of their tyrannical and cruel conquerors, and of their later persecutors and oppressors, have been so untimely cut off. The inundations and earthquakes which have happened in those devoted countries, call loudly on nations to consider, the equity of Divine Justice, in punishing nations. Mexico was so dreadfully inundated, that forty thousand persons perished at one time. Lima, &c. are often convulsed by earthquakes, and about the middle of the last century, three thousand perished in the Port Town only, which is small, compared with the whole of Lima, which suffered by it; Venezuela, and several other parts, are proofs of the fact.*

* Who that reflects, but must consider the astonishing events that have taken place in the Peninsula since the writer's visit and in Europe in general, as the wise, just, and merciful judg'

Inhabitants, &c.—True Church.

Other causes may be assigned for the decrease in the population, and consequently in the prosperity, of Spain: such as the Popish Inquisition, the expulsion of the Moors and Jews, the celibacy of the clergy, and the numerous convents, where so many female inhabitants are (not unfrequently) involuntarily immured in the splendid captivity of specious superstition; though, blessed be God, several of these cease to predominate as they did formerly.

The inhabitants of Cadiz, have been calculated at one hundred thousand. The Roman Catholic, as may be easily concluded from what is said above, is the prevailing and almost only religion of Spain. They are still enveloped with the night of ignorance and superstition; but they have lately made advances to loosen some of its fetters. As a proof of this, I, with pleasure, adduce the fact of the decrease of the power of that cruel and terrible court, the Inquisition.* May the Lord, in mercy, soon exterminate it from the

ments of Omnipotence; who, by these means, however awful, is correcting the nations for national sins. Who does not see, in the dreadful privations and sufferings of the inhabitants, a Fatherly correction; and that God is over-ruling, controlling, and directing every event, in order to bring nations and individuals to consider their latter end; to demolish and destroy superstition and idolatry, and to establish pure and undefiled religion in its stead.

Extending the view to the Church at large, & tracing its eventful, yet delightful history, the pious & consequently enlightened, reflecting, and generous mind will rejoice that, amidst all the convulsive struggles of agitated states, and the still more fiery trials of persecution, she has moved majestically, and still moves through the storm, rises over the bounding billows, steers her undiverted course, and, with certainty, hastens to the desired haven of everlasting felicity and joy.

* The recent revival of the Cortes has done much for Spain; and in no instance has their exertions for the safety and happiness of their country been more noble and advantageous, than in the late decision for the abolition of the Inquisition, carried by a considerable majority.

Anticipation.

earth ! It appears, that no ecclesiastic can now carry any sentence into execution without the royal authority, which has lately been exerted to curb the haughty spirits of ignorant and licentious priests, and to encourage agriculture and other arts, intimately connected with the prosperity of nations.

The government of Spain is in a great degree arbitrary; it has not the happiness to experience the blessings of those mutual checks, with which Great Britain is blessed, which conduce so much to the happiness of King and subjects.

May we not hope that Britain will be instrumental in giving the inhabitants of the Peninsula that Divine Revelation contained alone in the Scriptures, which, by the blessing of its almighty author, has raised her from that superstition and idolatry she once suffered under, to all that superior influence of civil and religious liberty, which at once marks her true distinction and glory, and imposes on her especially the high obligation of being instrumental in conveying those blessings and privileges to others.

The treasures of America were, if possible, regularly imported every year to Cadiz and other ports, in vessels well known by the name of galleons, or register ships; but as the Spanish manufacturers (owing greatly to the causes above assigned) have not ability to purchase them, other commercial nations have, in reality, the chief advantage: the power of justice may here be said to take place in a remarkable manner, in making their treasure circuitously to fall into other hands; all their attempts effectually to pre-

Rejoice ye martyrs and saints innumerable, who have suffered, bled, and expired triumphantly in the midst of its excruciating tortures and refined cruelties. This mass of complicated destruction is falling, and every enlightened and generous mind will exclaim, may it never again lift its terrific head ! May no unhallowed hand ever successfully be raised to restore this hydra of cruelty, superstition, and hypocrisy.

vent this traffic have been unsuccessful. This indolence, and negligence of the Spaniards, has hitherto made it advantageous for other enterprising nations, that such immense treasures should rather belong to Spain than to them. But to the honour of many Spanish merchants, be it spoken, that in consequence of their strict integrity, and justice, advantages have been seldom taken in confiscating the property of merchants belonging to belligerent powers with which Spain has been involved in war.

The city of Cadiz is built on an island connected with the continent by a bridge, it is well walled in, and has a good quay; near which the writer fell overboard, and was providentially preserved from injury.

The town has a handsome appearance from the harbour and bay. The inhabitants often experience the inconvenience of being obliged to obtain supplies of water from the opposite shore, where is a town of considerable note and extent called St. Mary's.

The view from the bay in fine weather, is of the first description. From the vicinity of Seville,* on

* Seville, the capital of Andalusia in Spain, bears a conspicuous figure in its history. It became, in common with all other parts of imperial Rome, subject to the northern invaders and conquerors, and fell under the dominion of the Visigoths, which subsisted in Spain during three hundred years; these were again dispossessed by the Saracens, who obtained so firm a footing, as not only successfully to oppose the power of Spain, but of Charlemagne.

At length it fell under the dominion of Rome papal, and furnished for centuries a bishoprick with splendid revenues, highly conducive to the worldly policy, and degrading superstition and idolatry of the Romish church.

In the recent agitations of this beautiful country, Seville has shared largely, from its situation and circumstances. It will also, it may be hoped, share largely in common with the Peninsula, as well as Italy, in the auspicious commencement (after so many ages of gross darkness, ignorance, and superstition,) of civil and religious liberty, nobly evinced by the Cortes in several of their discussions, and especially in their noble determination to abolish the inquisition, its opposition to all the subtle arts and open force of the Pope and his abettors.

adjacent Country.

one side, to the Straits of Gibraltar on the other, is an extent of many leagues. The principal part between, are Rotta, villages, the harbour, shipping, and city of Cadiz; the vast mountain behind the harbour, and the table land from Cadiz, towards the Straits, which, with numerous shipping at anchor, and others sailing in all directions, form prospects pleasingly contrasted, and sweetly harmonizing.

During my stay of three months, we were plentifully supplied with fresh beef from Barbary; fruit and vegetables from Portugal; and fish from Spain.

Near the conclusion of 1797, I joined the *Dolphin* at Lisbon; in the ensuing spring, we again entered the Mediterranean, and previous to our further destination, again anchored in Gibraltar Bay—took a further view of this rock—was much struck with many things in St. Michael's cave, which had escaped my former observation. New scenery, statues, buildings, and animals rose to imagination; and the solemn gloom and awful stillness which pervade every part, except where the droppings interrupt, add to the effect of the whole, and call even the thoughtless to reflection.

CHAP. VI.

Leave Gibraltar—Arrival at Minorca—Description of the Island—Departure—Arrive at Sardinia—Return to Minorca—Departure for Italy.

HAVING completed stores and provisions, we joined in October, an expedition, whose destination was supposed to be for the Island of Minorca. In about a week we passed Cape Pallos, and close in with the

Carthagenia.

land about Alicant, which is situated at the bottom of several mountains, of which there are several immense ridges, rising above each other in this neighbourhood; and also about Cape Pallos, and on towards Carthagenia.* These mountains near the coast serve to repel the violence of the sea winds, which sometimes prevail here. Alicant is a place of considerable extent and trade; its exports are wine, fruit, and several articles of manufacture; and it imports various articles of foreign manufacture, with considerable quantities of fish from the northern fisheries.—The wind continuing favorable and brisk, we quickly passed the Islands of Fromentaria and Ivica,† which are not of much interest, the former having little valuable produce, and the latter being but thinly inhabited, and neither of them possessed of a good harbour.

On the 7th of November, we arrived off Minorca, and soon after the whole fleet anchored at Port Daya, and landed four thousand men for the reduction of the island, which was happily effected on the 19th, without the loss of a man on either side. After the

* The name of this celebrated port connects with it some of the principal facts connected with the eventful histories of Rome and Carthage. It was built by the Carthagenians during their successful operations, some of which at length extended to the very gates of Rome, and named after ancient Carthage; but it suddenly became subject to Rome, and experienced the vicissitudes of the rise, decline, and fall, of that overgrown and unwieldy empire. It remained subject to the invaders and conquerors of the Roman empire, till the overthrow of Spain by the Saracens and Moors; and, after their expulsion, tended with all Spain, to swell the more gigantic and dangerous power of papal Rome. It is the principal port in Spain in the Mediterranean, and naturally affords great facilities to commerce. The country round is picturesque and delightful.

† Supposed to be the Ebusus of the ancients; is about sixty miles in circumference; chiefly known, as to commerce, for its exports in salt.

Minorca.

capitulation, the fleet proceeded to Fornela and Mahon; the garrison was immediately embarked and conducted to Spain, and the inhabitants of the island became subject to Britain.

Minorca, as is well known, is a small island of about one hundred miles in circumference, possessing one of the best harbours in the world; the entrance is rather difficult, but when within, you are safe from all winds and weathers. Fort Philip, which endured a trying siege under General Blackeney, is in ruins, and another has been raised on the spot, named Fort George, after his Britannic Majesty. On the opposite side of the entrance, is a handsome lazaretto, or quarantine warehouses; near Fort George, is George Town, a place well laid out, but indifferently built. Almost opposite, on an island, (destitute of fresh water), is the hospital, which is an extensive and commodious building, and about a mile from hence is the neat town of Mahon, whose inhabitants are remarkable for industry and cleanliness.

Barrenness and sterility of soil, prevail on the higher parts of this island; but the vallies, in general, are fertile. Fruit arrives at great perfection, owing to the great heat of the sun during summer, and vegetables spring up as from a hot-bed; and on many of these, otherwise barren parts, the sweetest herbs are produced; from which, those winged artists, the bees, extract that substance which gives the Minorquin honey its superior richness and flavor. It will not, even when there is a good crop, produce corn sufficient for the consumption of its inhabitants; but this deficiency is seldom severely felt, owing in a great measure to the active disposition of the Mahonese, &c. in commerce. Winters are frequently severe; and when the keen easterly winds predominate, agues greatly prevail.

Port Fornela is the next harbour of note to Mahon,

Sardinia—Sketch of its History.

but not much frequented, as the latter is the mart for commerce. The village is pleasantly situated, and the inhabitants exhibit much of that contentment which arises from industry.

Cittadela, situated at the N. side of the island, is an ancient place, whose inhabitants appear more attached to old customs, than those of the other parts, which may be accounted for from their more insulated situation, and having no good harbour for the encouragement of commerce; they do not possess that spirit of enterprize, or those habits of industry which distinguish the Mahonese.

The Roman Catholic is the established religion all over the island; but the inhabitants, especially the Mahonese, are not so bigoted and superstitious, as they are in many parts of the continent; hence the toleration granted to those of other sentiments.

Nearly under the walls of Mahon, is a good quay, and water for ships of burthen close to it. The town has several splendid churches, and may contain about eight thousand inhabitants. Opposite is an arsenal on a commodious island. In short, this harbour will contain many fleets at a time, without inconvenience to each other.

After wintering at Mahon, in the spring of 1798, we set sail to the eastward for Sardinia; and after encountering a smart gale, in about a week arrived safely in the great bay of Cagliari, the capital, and anchored under the town. This island gives the title of King to one of the House of Savoy, who, during the recent revolutions on the Continent, has enjoyed little more than a nominal sovereignty, except in this insulated part of his dominions. The appearance of the town and vicinity, from the anchorage, is handsome; it rises from the shore, where are good moles for shipping, well fortified, and stands on a commanding eminence; but on a nearer inspection, the interior

Caution to Seamen.

does not altogether correspond with its first appearance, the streets being not so wide, nor so regular and clean as might be expected.

The inhabitants, who are not numerous, seem restricted in commerce, and appear to possess much of that indolence always visible in the absence of active industry; which arises, no doubt, in a great measure, from the want of those encouragements with which countries more happily situated are blessed. The soil in general, wants cultivation, and in many parts is mountainous and barren.

The air, in summer, is often hot and sultry; during winter, frequently cold and damp, which, near the fenny and marshy parts, occasion agues to prevail.

There are several other harbours in this island; besides Cagliari at the S.E.*, are Palma and St. Peters at the N.W. Oristan, &c. All the coasts abound with fish, and coral is said to be found here.

A few leagues to the S. of Sardinia is a small island named Galletea; it is at present of small importance, but offers a friendly port, secure from violent northerly winds. Before our return to Minorca, we experienced in its vicinity a tempest, which being accompanied with squalls, prevented our carrying that press of sail we should otherwise have done; we were in consequence driven considerably to the southward of Galletea, and with anxious concern perceived our ship fast verging towards the rocky shores near Al-

* Between the S.E. end of Sardinia, and the small round island of Maritimo, off the western end of the island of Sicily and Cape Bon, near Tunis, lie those dangerous sunken rocks called Esqueres, or Sculkers, which should be carefully avoided by all that are sailing in this direction. I make this remark, and give this caution to my nautical readers, the more because a vessel may be very near them, even in a pretty clear evening, without perceiving their bearings.

Storm.

giers, and were under apprehensions of soon falling on its inhospitable coast, exposed to all

“The impervious horrors of a leeward shore.”

But while the considerate mind was forming plans to prepare for the worst, HE, who “maketh the clouds his chariot, and walketh upon the wings of the wind,” said “Peace, be still?” we lost sight of those fearful dangers, and reached our desired haven in safety.

What an awful scene is a storm, especially when beating the almost unmanageable ship towards the impending rocks. The otherwise thoughtless mariner, at length roused to consider, views, with dreadful forebodings in a dark night, the brightning foam and yawning gulf, or the latent rocks, far from shore; he sees every judicious effort rendered ineffectual, every plan of security baffled by the fury of the irresistible storm—art has done its all, the conflicting elements, roused into fury, seen to contend for their prey.

But when to apprehension all is over, the ship is about to take her last plunge, and the cry of “Lord have mercy on me,” is at length extorted, an unexpected lift of the waves, frees her from danger, or a cessation or change of wind, bears her clear off the leeward shore.

The astonished mariner views the wonderful deliverance with pleasing surprise. The sails are again enlarged, and she cuts the rocking swell, and ploughs the sea with alacrity. The thought still continues, but with fainter impressions of gratitude. The sea gets smooth, the extra sails court the favourable breeze, and the ship in safety is borne auspiciously along.

But where is the performance of those vows made

Solemn Address to Seamen.—Reflection.

in the hour of extremity?—where is that reformation then promised?—where is the fulfilment of those resolutions, to turn from evil, and learn good? Alas! my friends, (to seamen I now speak,) are not those impressions, in general, as transient as the morning cloud and early dew, which soon vanish away, like the recent furrows of the keel, which are almost immediately lost to view; you know this is the fact; experience proves, that the resolutions of the generality of seamen in a storm, are too often only in proportion to danger. When the storm is perceived, for an interval, to cease, but still hangs over the ship in dreadful form, good resolutions seem to hold their weight in the mind, but as the danger continues to abate, those resolutions become fainter, and when, at length, the Almighty Preserver has made the storm to cease, and brought them into the haven where they would be, what is their conduct? then, you know, my friends, it is in general, in direct contradiction to the vows made when you were expecting, every moment, to drop into an awful eternity. (Eternity! what an inconceivable awful thought is eternity! a state of everlasting happiness or misery!)—You know it is in direct opposition to that all merciful God, who hath saved your lives from so many deaths; for instead of thanksgiving to your gracious Benefactor, and prayers for grace to repent, and flee to Christ for salvation, in which true happiness alone consists, you are vainly and madly attempting to find satisfaction where it never, in the nature of things, can or will be found: for the end of those sinful pleasures is death. “The Lord Jesus shall descend from heaven in flaming fire, taking vengeance on those that know not God, and that obey not his gospel; who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of HIS power.” What would be thought of a

Sardinia continued.

man pretending to the name of a seaman, who, hearing the awful cry, All hands close reef top-sails! jump up, jump up! Ship on her beam ends, and masts going by the board! should cry with the sluggard, "A little more sleep, a little more slumber, a little more folding of hands to sleep!" how would such a drone be justly despised and disgraced by every one who feels for the honourable name of a sailor. But what a faint idea is this, joined to all the other awful and striking descriptions which a reflecting seaman must perceive might be drawn from the other multiplied situations in which a ship is so often placed, compared to the man who is not only asleep, but dead to his eternal interests.

May this friendly admonition, which is accompanied with a fervent wish for your present and everlasting happiness, be received, and the important subjects briefly mentioned, be sincerely and earnestly attended to by seamen as well as landmen. Above all, may the Lord, in mercy, set the conviction of their truth home upon your heart, and then you will know what salvation is, and experience joy unspeakable, and full of glory.

Sardinia has a prominent feature in history. Its antiquity is great, being first colonized by the Phoenicians. The Greeks, also, soon after visited it, and established colonies also; these penetrating people raised it into considerable importance, and by them it was named Icanusa.

The Carthagenians succeeded the Phoenicians and Greeks, in whose possession it continued many years. It was made of consequence enough to afford a principal pretence for one of the Punic wars; the last of which reduced Carthage, the once overgrown and unwieldy Carthage, to a Roman province.

At length the Saracens, whose kingdom was founded by Mahomet, and who were made scourges to a great

part of the civilized world, reduced this island to their subjection. From them it passed over to the dominion of the Genoese, and others; and from them to the house of Spain. After several other revolutions, it was conferred on the Duke of Savoy, in lieu of the island of Sicily, in whose family it still remains.*

The Roman Catholic is the predominant religion. May civil and religious liberty soon visit this solitary island; that the hearts of its inhabitants may be revived, and that religion and industry may make their country smile again.

This island, though so near the direct passage from Gibraltar to Sicily, Malta, and the Levant, is comparatively unknown and disregarded, as to commercial advantages and visits from travellers, which is probably one reason why ignorance, indolence, and barrenness, so much prevail; for, certainly, with a fair degree of commercial intercourse and stimulus to cultivation, this island would produce advantages which its inhabitants can now scarcely conceive.

The appearance of the capital, Cagliari, from the anchorage and surrounding ridges of mountains, interspersed with beautiful vales, with the grand opening to the sea, constitutes a view, in this spacious bay, majestic and delightful.

Having in some degree failed in the object of our voyage, we revisited Minorca; and having completed our provisions, soon proceeded to visit the fertile and interesting coasts and islands of Italy.

* The predecessors of this king are strongly marked in ecclesiastical history; in the early ages they were the protectors of the Waldenses, to whose interesting history the reader will be presently introduced; but the greater part of them stand on the pages of impartial history, as the oppressors and destroyers of these excellent of the earth.

CHAP. VII.

Pass the Gulf of Lyons—Description—Sketch of its History — Alps — Genoa — Rise and Decline — Inhabitants—Manufactures—Commerce.

WE passed the Gulf of Lyons* with a fine breeze, and shortly made the high land of Toulon and Hieres Islands. At the conclusion of a fine day, we entered on the coasts adjoining it, and, amidst the fragrance of a land breeze, which enabled us to keep close in, passed gently towards its shores. From our recent adieu to the Gulf of Lyons, the change was so grateful, that more senses than one were engaged on the various beauties presented. The eye dwelt with delight on the extensive gardens and pleasant villages between Hieres and the Var. The smell was as a garden of perfumes; and the ear was highly gratified with gentle undulations of the air and sea: all

“ To the heart inspiring
Vernal delight and joy.” MILTON.

The next day, with a beautiful morning and fine breeze, we sailed pleasantly and close along by the island of St. Honore and Margaret, which are si-

* This name will be familiar to the mind of the attentive reader of ancient history. As early as the close of the first century, commerce here was advanced. The situation of Lyons was favourable to commerce, and the arts and sciences, acting in concert, mutually assisted and promoted each other; by this means the inhabitants arrived at this early period, to what Genoa and Venice attained afterwards, and while they were actuated by the true principle of lawful enterprize, thus co-operating for the general good, they were free, flourishing, and happy.

tuated in a fine inlet or bay, and present a pleasing appearance. Margaretta is almost covered with trees and verdure, interspersed with several handsome buildings. The more barren and lofty parts of St. Honore, heighten the contrast, and form, with the adjacent coast, a very interesting prospect.

Farther to the east, and nearer Italy, is Antibes, (situated as in a garden,) a sea-port town of considerable extent, with a castle and mole for shipping. The harbour is shallow, except near the mole. It is an ancient place, and has now a considerable trade.

About twelve miles from Antibes, and in the same beautiful bay, is the noted town of Villa Franca. It is built on a beautiful declivity, and the effect is much heightened by the ranges of mountains which lie at its back, and near it.

Near Villa Franca is the Var, a river celebrated in history, which separates Italy from France.

Near the Var, in a continuation of the same country, is the neat and pleasant town of Nice, which has for many years been governed by a senate; has been, together with all this country, under the control of France, but is again restored.

A few miles higher, is the town of Monaco, easily known by a remarkable eminence near it, which resembles a plain on the top, and therefore called Table Land, by sailors; this also is situated on a beautiful declivity.

With pleasant breezes, and the same agreeable views, we continued to be borne by Oneglia, a handsome town, lying near or between two pleasant rivers, on to Cape Delle Melle, which terminates this part of the coast of Italy. It is almost needless to observe, that all this country produces abundance of fruit, wine, and oil.

We continued to view the still more interesting parts of this beautiful coast. Passing Delle Melle,

Genoa—History of.

another commanding prospect burst on the sight, and we soon entered a delightful bay, the shore of which contains the neat and handsome villages of Lican, Final, Grebo, and Noli.

From Cape Noli to Genoa, is another fine bay, near the bottom of which stands the ancient, large, and beautiful town of Savona, whose present degenerated state calls for commiseration. It long since sunk, in some degree, in proportion to the rise of Genoa; but since the decline of that extraordinary city, it has sympathized much with its decay: and the sand injuring its harbour, has combined nearly to remove its commerce into other channels.*

* Columbus was a native of Genoa, and one of those superior men who command the admiration and gratitude of posterity.

“Towards the close of the fifteenth century, Venice and Genoa were the only powers in Europe which owed their support to commerce. An interference of interests inspired a mutual rivalry; but, in traffic, Venice was much superior. She engrossed the whole commerce of India; then, and indeed always, the most valuable in the world, but hitherto entirely carried on through the inland parts of Asia, or by the way of Egypt and the Red Sea.”

“In this state of affairs, Christoval, or Christopher, Colon, more generally known by his Latinized name Columbus, a native of Genoa, whose knowledge of the true figure of the earth was much superior to the general notions of the age in which he lived, conceived a project of sailing to the Indies by a bold and unknown route, and of opening to his country, a new source of opulence and power.—But this proposal, of sailing westward to the Indies, was rejected by the Genoese as chimerical, and the principles on which it was founded, were condemned as absurd.”

“Stung with disappointment and indignation, Columbus retired from his country, and laid his schemes before the court of France, where his reception was still more mortifying, and where, he was laughed at and ridiculed.”

“Henry VII. of England was his next resort; but the cautious politics of that prince were the most opposite imaginable to a great but uncertain design.”

“Spain was now his only resource; and there, after eight years’ attendance, he succeeded, chiefly through the superior intelligence of the Queen Isabella.”

“Columbus set sail in the year 1492, with a fleet of three ships,

Columbus.

While treating of this coast and country, I feel myself impressed with the interesting history of its former inhabitants, a sketch of which I would pre-

upon the most adventurous attempt ever undertaken by man, and in the event of which, the inhabitants of two worlds were interested. In this voyage he had a thousand difficulties to contend with; the most formidable was the variation of the compass, then first observed, and which seemed to threaten, that the laws of nature were altered in an unknown ocean, and that the only guide he had left, was ready to forsake him. His sailors, always discontented, now broke out into open mutiny, threatening to throw him overboard, and insisted on their return. But the firmness of the commander, and the discovery of land, after a voyage of thirty-three days, put an end to the commotion."

Columbus first landed on Cat Island, one of the Bahamas; but here, to his surprise and sorrow, he discovered, from the poverty of the inhabitants, that these could not be the Indies he was in quest of. In steering southward, however, he found the island which he called Hispaniola, or St. Domingo, abounding in all the necessaries of life, inhabited by a humane and hospitable people, and, what was of still greater consequence, as it insured his favourable reception at home, promising, from some samples he received, considerable quantities of gold. This island therefore, he proposed to make the centre of his discoveries; and, having left upon it a few of his companions as the ground-work of a colony, returned to Spain, to secure the necessary reinforcements."

Had these discoveries been duly appreciated and valued by his successors, and the governments connected with them, instead of the tyranny exercised, and horrid cruelties inflicted on the innocent, unsuspecting, and generous inhabitants of Mexico, Peru, and other countries, they would have introduced that light and information which would have conferred mutual blessings, and have made the name of an European honoured and regarded with affection, instead of exciting sentiments of indignation and abhorrence. It is to be hoped that nations, as well as individuals, will learn, by bitter experience, to attend to that voice of inspiration, "Wo to thee that spoilest, and thou wast not spoiled; and dealest treacherously, and they dealt not treacherously with these; when thou shalt cease to spoil, thou shalt be spoiled; and when thou shalt make an end to deal treacherously, they shall deal treacherously with thee." *Isaiah chap. 33, ver. 1.* What striking illustrations have been displayed of its fulfilment during the last fifty years, and how is it still sounding in the ears of Europe and the world!

Interesting History of

sent to the consideration of the attentive reader.— These wonderful characters are known by the names of the Albigenses, Vallences, or Valley men, because they principally dwelt in the valleys of Piedmont. I say principally, for, like the diffusive religion they possessed, they reflected its sweet influences in many dark and superstitious countries, surrounded with persecution, and were enabled to hold up this divine light and life to their bitterest oppressors, and extend the healing beams of the Gospel over many, very many, of those habitations of violence and cruelty.

It is due to the government of Britain during the protectorate of Cromwell, to record their noble and disinterested exertions, to ameliorate the condition, and remove the cruel and unjust tyranny under which the Waldenses groaned; and the name of Milton is more honoured by the part he took in this glorious cause for their deliverance, than for his truly sublime poem, *Paradise lost*. The immortal poet thus breaks forth :

“ Avenge, O Lord, thy slaughter’d saints, whose bones
Lie scatter’d on the Alpine mountains cold ;
Ev’n them who kept thy truth so pure of old
When all our fathers worshipp’d stocks and stones,
Forget not ; in thy book record their groans
Who were thy sheep, and in their ancient fold
Slain by the bloody Piedmontese that roll’d
Mother with infant down the rocks. Their moans
The vales redoubled to the hills, and they
To heaven. Their martyr’d blood and ashes sow
O’er all the Italian fields, where still doth sway
The triple tyrant ; and from these may grow
A hundred fold, who having learned thy way,
Early may fly the Babylonian woe.”

Ever since the twelfth century, these Valley men, who, in the eighth century, or according to some historians, much earlier, had refused to participate in the daily increasing depravity of the Roman

Church, have been called Waldenses, from their union with the followers of P. Waldus, through whose means a great awakening took place in France. From them descended the ancient Church of the United Brethren;* and they appear the honoured instruments of connecting primitive Christianity and the dawn of the glorious reformation by Luther and his associates.

In this neighbourhood are to be seen, a part of those stupendous mountains called the Alps, the highest in Europe, many of whose majestic tops are whitened with perpetual snows; they divide Italy from France and Germany, forming a good natural barrier, but which mad ambition, and the desire of conquest, has often surmounted. Ancient history presents an uncommon instance in the case of the Carthaginian general, Hannibal, who, with great difficulty and danger, passed them, but not without the loss of many of his bravest men, and the imminent peril of his whole army, who were near perishing on these inhospitable mountains.

Modern history also informs us of crossing and recrossing these mountains, by invading and retreating armies, and kingdoms and states quickly over-run, and in several instances overturned, by those unwelcome obtruders.

Genoa, so much distinguished in history, still exhibits remains of its former magnificence and opulence; its extent and population is even now consi-

* Known also by the name Moravians, whose labours among the heathens are known to all the churches. The frozen shores of Greenland and Labradore, the milder clime of South Africa, and the Islands of the West Indies, have, by their instrumentality, heard and known the joyful sound of salvation, and are walking in the light of these heavenly and regenerating beams, which enable the poor Negro, Hottentot, Esquimaux, and Greenlander, to say, "I am free!"

Genoa. and its former Commerce.

derable, and some of its palaces have a majestic appearance. It is situated in the bottom of a gulf of the same name, and rises gradually from the sea in the form of an amphitheatre. The church of St. Lawrence is very conspicuous.

The harbour is formed within two handsome and useful moles, which repel the heavy swell from the gulf; on one of these moles is an elegant light-house, which considerably adds to the general beauty of the view, and altogether constitutes Genoa an interesting prospect.

Before the discovery of a passage to India by the Cape of Good Hope, Genoa had risen to the zenith of its prosperity as a commercial nation. Its commerce and colonies were astonishing, considering its small extent of country at home. They were rivals of the Greeks, Venetians, and Turks, and for a considerable period engrossed the trade of the Indies in Europe. The produce of the East was brought into their ports, and from thence conveyed and distributed to other parts of the world; by which means they principally rose to such eminence in maritime power. Luxury and pride, the constant attendants upon great influxes of wealth, had, however, begun secretly to undermine the prosperity of the country, when the passage to India being discovered, turned the trade of the East into new channels, which, combining with several other causes, gave a deadly stroke to the power and commercial prosperity of Genoa, which, excepting a few short intervals, has continued to decline ever since, and from which depression it is not at present likely soon to recover.*

* The rise, progress, decline and fall of commercial kingdoms and states, open an ample volume, where the statesman and merchant should read, understand, and learn the causes of commercial prosperity, and watch against the baneful effects of that luxury

Genoa continued.

The government of Genoa had long been aristocratical, and it was customary to elect the chief magistrate, called the Doge, every two years.

Since the revolution in France, it has generally partaken of the same form of government; it remains to be shewn what good effects will arise from it, for bettering the condition of the country, and especially in ameliorating the circumstances of the lower orders of its inhabitants.

The air and soil of Genoa partake much of the salubrity and abundance so conspicuous throughout Italy, though it is not so fruitful as its neighbouring country Leghorn, which partly arises from its mountainous situation, and partly from the want of good cultivation. In general seasons they have not a sufficient supply of corn, which deficiency is supplied by public granaries.

Their chief manufactories, in some of which they excel, are silk, velvet, damask, &c. which they frequently export, together with large quantities of fruit, chiefly the produce of the country, and, with sufficient encouragement, its exports might be soon increased.

which it naturally introduces; and which unless counteracted, invariably produces dissipation and licentiousness, and all the other sad consequences of the uncontrolled selfish passions, which strike at the root of social and domestic happiness

“ Ye friends to truth, and statesmen who survey
The rich man's joys increase, the poor's decay;
'Tis yours to judge how wide the limits stand,
Between a splendid and a happy land.
Proud swells the tide, with loads of freighted ore,
And shouting folly hails them from her shores.”
Yet count your gains. This wealth is but a name
That leaves our useful products still the same.
Not so the loss. The man of wealth and pride
Takes up a space that many poor supply'd;
Space for his lake, his park's extended bounds,
Space for his horses, equipage, and hounds:
The robe that wraps his limbs in silken sloth,
Has robb'd the neighbouring fields of half their growth.

D

Traveller.

CHAP. VIII.

Description of Leghorn—Liberality of its Government—Delightful Vicinity—Various and abundant Productions—Prevalent Religion—Reflection—Brief Account of its History—Illustrious Magistrates—Improvements in Criminal Code—Reflections—Transition to Britain—Lucca and Pisa—Return to Minorca.

SCARCELY had we bid adieu to Genoa, when we were gratified with a view of Leghorn, and all its pleasing vicinity and dependencies.

This interesting place rises majestically on the borders of the Tuscan Sea, and equals, if not surpasses, every other port in Italy, in navigation and commerce: the reasons are obvious. Here is a free port and toleration. The merchandize brought thither is passed over without that rigorous and vexatious inspection which proves a check to liberal trade. The inhabitants are computed at sixty thousand persons, consisting of various nations and denominations. The Greeks, Jews, and Armenians, have their several places of worship. The Jews are computed at upwards of ten thousand, of which there are numbers of the first respectability, who, although they labour under several disadvantages from imposts, &c. are, notwithstanding, in a prosperous condition. Near the town is a capacious mole for shipping, and not far from it an elegant light-house.

The country adjacent to Leghorn is delightfully interspersed with several towns and villages, all

of which are enlivened by, and partake of the general benefits of their common port. The air is salubrious, and the soil very fertile. It produces in abundance, corn, oil, delicious and substantial fruits and vegetables, which, with quantities of fine silk and other valuable productions, form the principal articles of their trade.

The Roman Catholic is the prevalent religion; but is there not reason to hope, that the inquisitive spirit* so conspicuous among the inhabitants of Leghorn and its neighbourhood, may, under Divine Providence, be overruled to bring in genuine Christianity, and that it may extend, in all directions, till superstitious Italy is evangelized.

The ancient history of Tuscany is closely connected with that of Rome, of whose empire it formed an integral part. We may date its modern history from the reign of Charlemagne, who possessed it at the close of the eighth century. After which it became subject to Germany, whose monarch appointed the viceroy, till a pope, famous for political, as well as ecclesiastical intrigue, encouraged these governors to render themselves independent of their masters, and accept of his protection against the emperor. Hence the beginning of two powerful factions, which, about the middle of the twelfth century, divided the whole empire, the influence of which was not confined to Italy alone, but extended its desolating ravages to Germany also.

* The late rapid and unexampled revolutions in empires, kingdoms, and states, in Europe, has induced, probably, as rapid a change in the opinions, sentiments, and conduct, of many of its inhabitants.

Italy, with many other countries, formerly immured in superstition and idolatry, has for some years been hastening to the extreme of scepticism, infidelity, and licentiousness.

The interesting Family of the Medicis.

Several states tired of the contention, wisely withdrew from the distressing scene, and established a government consonant to their wishes.

At length John de Medicis, a popular and enterprising nobleman, gained so much on the affections of the Florentines, that they invested him with sovereign authority.

After him succeeded Cosmo de Medicis, justly named the father of his people. He was bred to a mercantile life, but soon exhibited such abilities, integrity, and benevolence, as proved him to be an able statesman and legislator; but envy soon shot her shafts at him, and being grieved at the ingratitude of his countrymen, he removed to Venice, where he was received in an honorable manner. His countrymen soon relented, and invited, yea, entreated him to return; he complied with their wishes, and presided over the common-wealth upwards of thirty years, and died universally lamented in 1464. Over his tomb was placed this inscription;—"Father of his people and freer of his country." An admirable lesson for princes and governors, to "Go and do likewise."

Cosmo was succeeded by his grandson, Lorenzo, another illustrious character, treading in the steps of his great progenitor, who was likewise bred a merchant. His public services so recommended him to his countrymen, that they made him chief of their republic; and he was so universally esteemed by the princes of Europe, that they often made him arbiter of their differences. What a blessing are such magistrates and princes, who are more solicitous to settle differences by arbitration, than to draw the dreadful sword, which widens the breach, and deepening the prejudice, exhibits that animosity so contrary to peace and happiness.

Improved Criminal Code.

The government continued in this family until 1737, when the last, called Gaston, died without issue. It was then transferred to the Duke of Lorrain, in lieu of that dutchy.

In the year 1786, an improved code of criminal laws was issued, which in a great measure abolishes capital punishments; judging wisely, that the frequency of capital punishments, by weakening the effect on the criminals, counteracts the intention of preventing crimes, and therefore they substitute visible and permanent correction. Torture is prohibited,—confiscations declared unjust, as often involving the innocent with the guilty. Proportionate penalties are inflicted for slight offences; and a more equitable mode of trial established, particularly with regard to evidence.*

In how many respects is this code worthy of imitation! The good effects were soon felt in this country, by a spirit of subordination and cheerful obedience.

Various changes have recently taken place here; it is now much connected with the government of France.

Lucca and Pisa, situated on a beautiful plain, near Leghorn, are pleasing prospects. The former is well known as a republic, at which time it contained a population of upwards of one hundred thousand people, in the circumference of one hundred miles. The town of Lucca, at present, is supposed to contain about twenty thousand inhabitants, is about three miles round, and presents a picture of industry; they

* It will afford satisfaction to every benevolent mind to hear, that the attention of the Legislature of Britain is increasingly drawn to this important subject, which involves the reformation of criminals, by introducing that superior system so wisely acted on in Philadelphia, and in several other state prisons, which reforms while it corrects; a system which was emphatically impressed on Britain by the persevering exertions of the benevolent Howard.

have considerable manufactories, and partake of the spirit of trade exhibited so largely at Leghorn.

Pisa stands on a beautiful plain, which bears its name, is a small town, and chiefly remarkable for its delightful situation and extraordinary leaning tower.

The view of the Papal dominions, bordering on Tuscany, naturally draws my attention to this extraordinary country and its government. It extends about two hundred miles, on a beautiful coast and country, the soil of which is so fertile, that it produces, almost spontaneously, a sufficiency of the necessities of life for the subsistence of its inhabitants, who are in general so slothful, owing principally to the little encouragement given to industry and agriculture, that their indolence is become proverbial.

The discouragement of agriculture and trade, may be said to be interwoven with the constitution of the Papal government.—Their arbitrary power, and monopoly of grain, in which selfishness is often so predominant; their pride and indolence which so generally prevail, infect the lower orders, who commonly prefer begging and imposing on strangers, to honest industry and usefulness, in relative and social life. It has frequently been observed, that there is more toleration in Rome, than perhaps, in any country in Italy, except Leghorn; in this respect it deserves a tribute of commendation.

Before the reformation, it is well known the Pope reigned paramount over all the nations of Europe. He excommunicated and dethroned kings, and princes, at his pleasure. So abject has been the submission, that a King of England thought himself honoured, by being permitted to put the Pontiff's foot into the stirrup when mounting his horse. Their spiritual bondage was such, that a bull from his holiness had more influence on their benighted minds,

Anticipation.

than the commands of the Almighty. Blessed be God, who by his Gospel, has so wonderfully chased this thick darkness from so many nations. Our highly favoured land has been long distinguished in this respect; may its inhabitants shew their gratitude, by the emphatical language of holy lives, and rejoice in the anticipation of the fulfilment of promises and prophecies;—that, “the heathen shall be given to “the Redeemer for his inheritance, and the utmost “parts of the earth for his possession.” And that his Gospel shall continue to increase in the hearts of mankind, till “the knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall “cover the earth, as the waters cover the sea.”

“ Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
Does his successive journey run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.” WATTS.

During our voyage we beheld ruins of various majestic buildings of antiquity, several of them, the wonted retreats of the Roman Emperors, whose tottering vestiges loudly proclaim the transitory nature of human grandeur.

“ Worn on the edge of days, the brass consumes,
The busto moulders, and the deep cut marble,
Unsteady to the steel, gives up its charge.
Ambition, half convicted of her folly,
Hangs down her head, and reddens at the tale.”

BLAIR.

“ ——— The pilgrim oft,
At dead of night, mid his oraison, hears
Aghast the voice of time! disparting towers,
Tumbling all precipitate down, dashed,
Ratling around, loud thundering to the moon.”

DYER.

Before our return we passed near the islands of Elba and Corsica. The former is about twelve miles

Corsica, with an Outline

in length and rather narrow. It has an excellent harbour, named Porto Ferrajo, and produces fruit, fish, &c. and the town is of considerable note.

The latter is divided from Sardinia by a very narrow and dangerous channel, and is very mountainous. It is about eighty-five miles long, and in some parts fifty broad. The soil is rather barren, especially near the mountains: but the air is more salubrious than its neighbouring island Sardinia. It produces considerable quantities of corn, oil, wine, and chestnuts; the inhabitants are temperate, patient, and hardy.

The Corsicans have formerly made great struggles for their liberties, especially during the government of the Genoese, who, in the plenitude of power, frequently oppressed the natives; till, at length, by repeated acts of injustice, they so kindled the indignation of the Corsicans, that a general revolt ensued.

They fixed their attention on their countryman Paoli, who had before given proofs of his integrity and abilities, for their leader, who established the revolution, and under whose government, justice and equity were administered. The spirit of the inhabitants being thus revived, agriculture and commerce soon followed, and the people experienced the protection and blessings of a mild government, in an eminent degree.

Their former unwise governors were now ready to tremble at the very man whom they had recently treated so severely, and they thought it convenient to give up to France, what they could no longer retain themselves, and which in reality, they no longer possessed.

Notwithstanding this, confiding in their native courage and strength, the Corsicans defended themselves against France itself, upwards of a year;

at length persuasion in a measure effected that which open force could not, and the generality of the natives surrendered themselves to its government; but many securing themselves in their fastnesses, were not easily reduced; and several have, perhaps to this day, escaped the involuntary surrender of their liberty.

During the early part of the revolution in France, the people of this island appeared desirous of uniting with Great Britain; which union was effected in 1794. Soon after, from a variety of circumstances, it again became subject to France.

It gave birth to the present phenomenon of the day, Buonaparte, who by the rapidity of his advances towards the summit of ambition, has astonished the nations. May Almighty grace reach his heart in his present retreat; and then every reflecting mind, and feeling heart, will exultingly say, "What hath GOD wrought!"

It is but thin of inhabitants; they are robust, and laborious, especially in traversing the mountains in quest of animals, of which there are many that are good for food. The Italian language prevails, especially on the coast, where are several excellent harbours, as Bastia, the capital: Ajacio, and Calvi, all which are towns and places of note.

The time of our visit to these delightful countries, being for the present nearly elapsed; towards autumn we steered our course for Minorca, which we reached without any thing very material happening during the passage, and began to prepare for another visit to other parts of Italy, &c.

CHAP IX.

Leave Minorca — Arrival at Sicily — Description — History — Inhabitants — Critical Situation — Providential Escape — Extraordinary Islands of Volcano and Stromboli, eclipsed by Mount Etna — Situation — Extent — Fatal Eruptions — Reflections — Departure.

HAVING remained a few weeks at Minorca, and completed our water and provisions, we set sail again to the eastward for the celebrated island of Sicily, which afforded an opportunity of seeing, as it were, Italy in miniature.

Sicily is the largest and most fertile of all the Italian islands. Its triangular position extends from about $36^{\circ} 30'$ to 38° degrees north latitude, and from about $12^{\circ} 07'$ to $15^{\circ} 58'$ east longitude, in the neighbourhood of Malta, Calabria, and Naples. A full account of this interesting country would fill a volume.

Without entering into the fables of the poets, we may date its original history from the Sciani ; from whom it passed into the possession of the Trojans and Greeks, who jointly inhabited it.

But those properly called Sicilians, and who gave the name of Sicily to the island, came from the adjacent continent ; inhabited it for several centuries, and at length gave way to the Greeks and others. The Phoenicians also spread themselves along the coast, and in the islands adjacent, and formed small colonies for the benefit and convenience of their navigation and trade.

Early History.—Fertility.

This island was the seat of many wars between the Romans and Carthagenians, until the overgrown power of the former prevailed, and Sicily became a Roman province. It fell with that empire under the northern invaders, who in their turn gave way to the Saracens, who often cruelly oppressed the Sicilians.

It has always been celebrated for its extraordinary fertility and interesting situation, and the different nations who have successively possessed it, have invariably considered it as a granary.

The climate is inviting, and the soil so productive, that with little cultivation it produces all the necessities of life in abundance. It was, in a peculiar manner, the granary of ancient Rome and Carthage, for corn, and still produces such an abundance of that essential article, that it continues to supply Naples, Malta, and several other parts of Italy with it.

Not vales only, but the hilly parts of this fertile island, are frequently covered to the very summits with verdure; the vallies and more level parts are exceedingly fruitful, vineyards, olive trees, Indian corn, and all kinds of vegetables flourish, and a variety of the finest fruits, invite the traveller in every direction.

Though frequently intensely hot, the island is very healthful, the salubrity of the air purifying any noxious qualities which the heat may produce from corrupted vegetation. Their winter is so short and mild that it may rather be denominated a spring; chilling winds are seldom felt, but transient storms are frequently experienced during the months of February and March: and here I am forcibly reminded of the imminent peril our ship and lives were exposed to during one of these storms; and would thankfully acknowledge an ever watchful Providence,

Ship on Fire.—Providential Deliverance.

who gave presence of mind, and rendered the means used effectual to rescue us from our dreadful and apparently desperate situation.

The ship was at anchor between Palermo and Messina, near the extraordinary volcanic islands of Stromboli and Volcano. And with respect to the winds, at least, judged to be in perfect safety for the night, and therefore the watch only on deck. For though the thunder was loud and the lightning vivid, yet from the comparatively moderate state of the wind, no serious apprehensions were entertained. It was about the solemn and awful stillness of midnight, rendered still more awful than thick darkness, because heightened in dread by the frequent flashes of lightning, which made indeed—"darkness visible;" when an alarm that the ship was on fire, echoed from every part. In a fit of despair many run to cut down the boats along-side, to escape; but orders were instantly given to the contrary, and obedience to them ensured by others of more presence of mind, and the affrighted parties obliged to assist in extinguishing the flame, or perish in the attempt. The danger was considerably increased by the exaggerations of fear, and the flames were said to be approaching the hatchway and magazine, which in part was literally true; no time was now to be lost, and some of those most collected and firm, rushed to the spot from whence the flames were said to issue, and with hammocks, blankets, &c. smothered the dreadful flames; and all were providentially preserved.

Storm, tempest, and even shipwreck itself, with all its dreadful danger, must sink in the comparison with the state of peril faintly described above. What gratitude then ought to be excited in the breast of every recipient of such wonderful mercies! but sad

Reflection.—Lipari, Stromboli, &c.

to reflect, little of this was felt, and few, very few ascriptions of heartfelt thanksgivings, were given to that benignant and sovereign Arbiter of the universe, who suggested, gave energy to the means used, and caused them to be successful in saving upwards of one hundred persons by so great a deliverance.

The fire was discovered to have arisen from the negligence of a seaman leaving his candle burning among the ropes in the cable-tier, the dangerous tendency of which, without a safe lanthorn, is alas! but too little regarded by the generality of seamen, and often but slightly attended to by those whose duty it is to inspect and report the safety of the interior of the ship, especially during night.

The Lipari islands were the next day seen, and we soon after approached the shores of these phenomena. Volcano exhibits smoke as if rising from a large furnace.

Stromboli frequently vents itself with great violence, and sometimes throws from its bosom, fire to such extent, as to render an approach dangerous. Lipari, the capital, has many inhabitants; all the islands appeared connected with volcanoes, and produce sulphur and a variety of fine fruits.

What extraordinary scenes are here collected in the midst of the sea; that islands, whose greatest circumference does not exceed a few miles, should form a release to such a mass of fire.

But on the other view of the subject, may we not consider these awful appearances, evidently calculated to answer very important and beneficial purposes; for these eruptions, being almost invariably found in countries subject to earthquakes, in some measure answer the purpose of chimnies to something within the earth, which if confined would burst.

But all the wonders are eclipsed by the magnitude

Mount Etna.—Awful Eruptions,

and violence of the neighbouring Volcano of Mount Etna.

“Th’ infuriate hill that shoots the pillar’d flame,
And rous’d within the subterranean world,
Th’ expanding earthquake, that resistless shakes
Aspiring cities from their solid base,
And buries mountains in the flaming gulf.” THOMSON.

This mountain, which during so many ages has continued to emit such a body of fire, and still “burns unconsumed,” is situated about twelve leagues from Messina, and within about six leagues of the sea. It is computed to be twenty leagues in circumference, and ten thousand feet in height, of a circular form, and its top like a sugar loaf, and in clear weather can be descried about one hundred miles off.

At the top is a bason of burning sulphur, said to be four miles round, and the upper part or circle of this burning mountain, is covered with snow.

The lower parts are very fertile, producing the more substantial articles, as corn and vegetables; the middle is more woody, and abounds with olive trees, chesnuts, grapes, and other fine fruits.

Its fiery eruptions have frequently occasioned dreadful destruction around, and have even reached the neighbouring continent. The greatest eruptions marked in history, are those of 1536, 1556, 1579, 1669, when fourteen towns and villages are said to have been destroyed. In 1693, when it shook the whole island, fifty-four towns and villages, with 18,000 people are supposed to have perished.

But the last eruption which happened as recently as 1783, appears to have far exceeded all others. It extended its dreadful effects over a great part of the island, and on the opposite shore. It destroyed many

and Effects.—Reflection.

towns and villages, and forty thousand inhabitants are said to have perished by its terrible ravages.*

The fiery liquid, issuing from this dreadful volcano; earthquake, succeeding earthquake; mountains, cities, towns and villages, overturned in an instant; must have been a scene which imagination cannot conceive, much less language describe. A scene which should remind mortals of that infinitely more awful and tremendous day, when---“The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, the elements melt with fervent heat, the earth, and the works that are therein, shall be burnt up.” Peter, last chap.

Beyond conception bless'd are they
Who enter now the veil; and see
The Saviour, Judge, their everlasting Friend.

During our stay on the coast, we experienced considerable hospitality from its inhabitants, and having accomplished the object of our voyage, which was to obtain a supply of wood, with which this island in many parts abounds, we returned by a beautiful coast, picturesque in a high degree, to Palermo, which is now considered the capital of the island, and which, alas, like most other capitals, where the sacred volume is not circulated and unfolded by its Almighty Author changing the heart and life, exhibits dissipation and licentiousness in their various disgraceful and destructive forms.

* Vesuvius, near Naples, remarkable also for its volcano, has so recently as 1806, been again the scene of similar eruptions, when several thousands are reported to have perished in the dreadful death.

CHAP. X.

Description of Palermo—Gardens—Botanic Museum—Manners and Customs of the Inhabitants—Comparisons between the Capital and Villages in this Respect—Sketch of its History—Preparations for leaving—Reflections on the Whole.

THE town or city of Palermo, is situated in the bottom of its fine bay, and from its bosom forms a handsome appearance. Its level position, stately buildings, and beautiful vicinity, of public gardens and public walks, with a mole well filled with shipping, all contrasted with a chain of mountains, of which there are many ridges, whose tops and cones tipped with snow, heighten the effect, altogether comprehended in one view, exhibit a view majestic and delightful.

On visiting this pleasant spot, I had an agreeable walk to its suburbs and entrance, and proceeded to investigate its interior; but here, as at Lisbon, &c, I did not altogether realize what its external appearance led us to expect; but enough was presented to awaken curiosity, and reward inspection. A coach was obtained at the moderate price of a crown a day; the coachman, according to custom, transformed himself into a footman, and thus equipped, we were borne along by interesting scenes, but often, alas! eclipsed by extremes of misery and disease on one hand, and vain parade on the other.

There are four capital streets, whose handsome buildings, regular order, parallel directions, and ex-

traordinary length, commanded attention; did Palermo, as a whole, consist of an assemblage of such streets, it might vie with Westminster. We proceeded to view the architecture of several churches; though some few form a majestic appearance, the major part have nothing interesting. Several of the fountains are elegant, and furnish an abundant supply of water.

In every direction were placed images, and paintings of the Virgin and Saints, and every where were to be seen Friars variously habited, and variously conducting themselves.

It is strange to see the superstition of the generality of the inhabitants; though apparently devout, yet they display such a mixture of levity and seriousness, of trifling and devotion, of apparent veneration in the worship of God, through the intercession of the Virgin, and their saints, and transitions to the vain impertinences of man, that their character must appear mysterious to every considerate stranger; until, by a more mature consideration and inspection, he has penetrated and discovered the latent principles and springs which set all their wheels in motion.

The inhabitants are computed to be upwards of one hundred thousand, and in general present the extremes of vanity and pomp, or abject poverty and wretchedness; a chasm lies between, which such countries as Britain only know how to appreciate. I mean the middle link in the great chain of Society, which connecting high and low, makes a nation social and happy. I have often thought, and am confirmed in the thought by observation, that a just estimate may immediately be formed of the happiness of any nation, or commonwealth, by this single criterion of the connection and comparative independence of each rank on the other.

During our visits, I did not observe that simplicity

True Liberty.—Gardens, Museum, &c.

and hospitality among the inhabitants of Palermo, which we saw and experienced among the villagers, happily separated from the contagion of the capital. Many of them exhibit the honest and teachable manners of rural rusticity, so pleasing to a reflecting mind; and were they less under the influence of superstition, and had a free use of that inestimable book the Bible, under the blessing of God, they would soon emerge from that darkness of soul in which these countries have been so long enveloped, and feel the service of God to be perfect freedom, because it is a freedom from the slavery of sin—a freedom

“ Which monarchs cannot grant, nor all the powers
Of earth and hell confederate take away;
A liberty, which persecution, fraud,
Oppression, prisons, have no power to bind,
Which whoso tastes can be enslaved no more.” COWPER.

Having proceeded to examine the curiosities in the vicinity, my attention was first drawn to the royal gardens and museums.

The great water-work at the entrance is very handsome: the top resembles an urn, with a number of apertures, for the water to play in every direction; near the base, the waters fall in large regular sheets, and have a pleasing and striking effect on the beholder.

The walks are well laid out, interspersed with shrubs, and kept in good order; but the noble and majestic view in its vicinity, solicits the spectator to leave the works of art, to view the grand and magnificent in nature, which rises behind Palermo, like a vast amphitheatre.

The entrance into the Botanic Museum, appears well designed, and its portals and interior contain statues, representing some of the principal adepts in medicine, botany, &c. The whole of this building is marked with simplicity, elegance, and unifor-

Sketch of its ancient and modern History.

mity, and, with others in the vicinity, are well worth the inspection of the virtuoso.

The more modern history of this country, also, is well worthy notice:—in the dark ages, emphatically so called, when the pretended infallible successor of St. Peter was apparently all-powerful in Europe, here appears to have been formed a powerful and respectable obstacle to his ambition and overgrown power; for while Europe in general was plunged in monkish ignorance, here was a government which exhibited striking proofs of liberty, civilization, and commerce.

At length, by intrigue and flattery, a revolution in behalf of the See of Rome was effected, and the government transferred into the hands of the Earl of Anjou and the French, who were dispossessed by the Spaniards in 1504; and ever since, the night of superstition has enveloped this Island, though its gloom is not now so thick as formerly.

After replenishing our stock, we again left the fertile coasts of Italy, a country which contains so much of the beautiful and stupendous in nature, abounding with the choicest productions in art—which formed the seat of empire to ancient Rome, a sketch of the history of which would fill a volume, whose history, also, exhibits modern events no less striking, and a power and authority far more extraordinary and extensive.

After the death of Constantine,* who uniformly favoured Christianity, (and during his reign Rome also appears to have arisen to the zenith of political greatness,) the Roman Empire divided into two separate and independent parts, under Arcadius, who resided at Constantinople, as emperor of the east, and Honorius at Ravenna, as emperor of the west; and again more dangerously divided and weakened by internal

* See note, page 14.

jealousies and jarring interests of factious and ambitious men in her own bosom, was rapidly weakening and hastening to a state of imbecility and disorder, which rendered her an easy prey to the barbarous tribes, the Goths, Vandals, &c. that first attacked her, and who continued to pour into this once mistress of the world, their successful armies, which swiftly reduced to a state of degradation and subjection the western empire, and prepared in a great measure, the materials for the overthrow of the eastern also.

Upon the ruins of the western empire were established in the course of the fifth century, the kingdoms of Italy, France, Spain and Britain, in Europe, and the Vandals in Africa.

The eastern empire was favoured a few years longer with such men as John Chrysostom, who, with his colleagues, appears to have been singularly attentive to missionary exertions among the barbarous nations; (which heavenly spirit is so increasingly manifesting itself in the present day) and Africa was blessed with an Augustine, the venerable, active, zealous, and laborious Bishop of Hippo, successors of Ignatius, Clement, Polycarp, Ireneus, Justin Martyr, Novatian, Cyprian, the Christian philosopher Boetius, and a long list of other worthies, who "loved not their lives unto death," so that they might preach and teach the truths of the everlasting Gospel; these men and their successors, especially the Waldenses, Albigenses, and Paulicians, were the means of transmitting the light of truth through the dark ages, (emphatically called the leaden age) down to the reformation. This glorious light appears to have spread in Ireland, previous to its propagation in Britain, by the instrumentality of Palladius; nor must the name of Patrick be forgot, who at the peril of his life returned to Ireland, opened

schools, taught the use of letters, and the arts of civilization.

It appears that Patrick, a native of Scotland, was the earliest successful missionary in Ireland, and that Columbas, an Irishman, was honoured with the same character in Scotland, as well as in Cambria, the inhabitants of which have retained their ancestry, customs, and their very language to the present day, and have in more modern times the honour of being among the foremost in every good work.

The torch of divine truth was held forth by these blessed men and their successors, and as the darkness increased, the light was still retained; and even when it was indeed gross darkness which might be felt, the great head of the church kept it alive as a spark in the ocean, by means of such men as venerable Bede, Agobard, Florus, Gotteschalus, and in Britain, Alfred, truly the great, who translated Bede's Ecclesiastical History, Boetus, David's Psalter, and other works.

After Alfred, who died in the year 900, succeeded Alphage, or Elphegus, also a Briton, who appears one of the remaining few, who held up the light of truth during the Egyptian darkness which succeeded the reign of Alfred, and with Bernard, and Grosthead, and Bradwardine, brings my readers down to the stronger light, kept alive by the Waldenses, Albigenses, Paulicians, &c. a sketch of whose history has been attempted in a preceding chapter of this work,* and a short sketch of the Paulicians also will soon be introduced to the notice and regard of the intelligent reader.

The close of the fifth century, presents an increase of degeneracy from the purity and simplicity of Christianity, and bishops, priests, presbyters, deacons, all

* See page 47.

Early Christian Church to the Reformation.

contending who should be the greatest. The crafty aggrandized and aggrandizing bishop of Rome, was constantly on the watch to render these contentions, and others fomented and kept alive for the purpose, among kings, princes, governments, and subjects, subservient to his artful, base, and ambitious views, until a favourable period, under the monster Phocas arrived, when he threw off the mask, and proclaimed himself St. Peter's successor, Christ's universal vicar upon earth, and the supreme infallible head of all Christians, and was at length acknowledged as judge in the place of God; and all the other blasphemies and absurdities of a corrupted and corrupting church rapidly succeeded, until vital religion was banished to caves, mountains, and dens of the earth; but under the Divine blessing, kept alive, animated, invigorated, and increased by the Waldenses, Albigenses, Paulicians, and other worthies, as Wickliffe, Oldcastle, Huss, Jerome of Prague, Mirandula, Taverallas, &c. raised up to exhibit the power and truth of Christianity, by lives answerable to its heavenly doctrine and precepts, until the period, when by the instrumentality of Luther, Godanchalas, Melancton, Calvin, and other associates, it burst forth on a benighted and suffering world with a refulgence of light, life, and glory.

CHAP XI.

Departure—Touch at Malta—Interesting Harbour and Vicinity—Antiquity and Hospitality of its ancient Inhabitants—Dreadful Wars with the Saracens and Turks—Pleasing Instances of Amelioration of Character—Reflections on War and the tendency of Christianity—Paul's Shipwreck—Departure from the Regions of Mahometanism.

AFTER a short absence, near the close of the year 1800, we once more set sail from Gibraltar into the Mediterranean, unconscious of our ultimate destination, but, as it eventually proved, we were to visit countries rendered still more interesting than Italy itself—countries peculiarly marked in history, as the most interesting on the globe, and which will continue to occupy the mind of man till time shall be no more.

After a pleasant and safe voyage, we entered the harbour of Valletta, the capital of Malta, and my attention was fixed on the extraordinary appearance of this remarkable island, harbour, and town.

An opportunity soon offered for a visit to Valletta and its vicinity. We landed on a fine quay, and proceeded under an archway, through a narrow entrance, which introduced us to the foot of the leading streets which lie through the city; the ascent is rather steep, and the pavement narrow, but on either hand there were several good streets, with a variety of shops, but in general confined. I continued to ascend the hill till near the summit, when a noble prospect began to open to view, and many objects excited attention:

Town and Vicinity.

after viewing them, and gaining the extent of the town, another beautiful landscape opened on the sight, which, with the view of the harbour and shipping, and opposite villages, with a fine champaign country at the head of it, agreeably surprise the mind, and render Malta highly interesting, especially to a stranger.

The principal streets are regular, a few of them well paved; the houses are in general lofty, and being built of a white stone, peculiar to the island, have a noble appearance. The churches are remarkably well and elegantly built, and the handsome stone gives them an air of grandeur rarely seen in brick, and inferior stone buildings.

The principal church is called St. John's; this majestic building stands on an elevated situation, near the summit of the hill: It has a handsome and elegant appearance, and more remarkable for its extent and uniformity, than for useless ornaments. The interior contains many superb embellishments, of all which, the Mosaic work on the pavement is said to be the most admirable.

The inhabitants are Catholics; they are generally superstitious, but not so bigoted or revengeful as the inhabitants of various parts of the Continent. There is an openness and candour in the generality of the Maltese, which might be an example to many countries.*

* This interesting island has recently become a depot, not for the treasures of commerce and rendezvous of fleets merely, but what is of infinitely greater moment, a station for the reception and dissemination of the oracles of divine truth; here is a christian church, and from hence is the Word of Life circulated to the adjacent countries, and to all parts of the Levant: here the christian has in prospect a seminary for the education of Missionaries, who are to spread the glad tidings of salvation to the long neglected and benighted countries of Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Persia, &c.

St. Paul's Shipwreck on this Island.

It is worthy of remark that in the interesting description given of St. Paul's shipwreck, by Luke, we find this faithful servant of the Lord, placing their hospitality in a striking point of view.—“And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita, and the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and lodged us three days courteously: And it came to pass that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever, and of a bloody flux; to whom Paul entered in and prayed, and laid his hands on him and healed him; so when this was done, others also which had diseases in the island came and were healed: who also honoured us with many honours, and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary.” See 28th chap. Acts.

Here is an interesting and pleasing account of its ancient inhabitants: may its modern inhabitants also increase, not only in hospitality, but in all other Christian graces, which alone dignify and adorn human nature. Traditions of St. Paul are often cited, and his memory is venerated by many of the Maltese.

During the recent revolutions in France, Italy, &c. this island has passed into the hands of the English, whose government the inhabitants in general appear to esteem. May their confidence in, and happiness under it, continue to increase.

where the inhabitants appear preparing and eager for truth. “It runs and runs, and ever shall run on,” till at length reaching to the millions of China, Tartary, Hindostan, &c. all shall join in the general exultation, “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of God and his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

This port is capacious, the main harbour alone will, probably, contain three hundred sail of shipping, and in addition to this there are two inlets or harbours from it, which will contain many more; in one of these inlets is the arsenal, and conveniences for careening ships of burthen.

The view of the city, and its neighbourhood, with the fine landscape at the bottom of the bay, is noble and pleasing. Malta abounds with most delicious fruit, oranges, lemons, olives, figs, melons, and pumpkins, are easily obtained, and pease, beans, pulse, roots, herbs, and other garden produce, rise from a very thin surface of earth, with little cultivation; cotton also abounds in various parts; indeed the whole island may be compared to a hot-bed, as to the sudden appearance of its productions. It is about twenty-one miles in length, and twelve in breadth, and all its vicinity produces a variety and abundance of fish.*

The air is clear, and though excessively hot in summer, is very healthful. The refreshing breezes, which are almost constantly prevalent during the hot months, are so refreshing and invigorating, as suddenly to raise the body from a state of lassitude and debility, to comparative strength and activity, so graciously has Divine Providence tempered these hot climates!

* Sailing to the westward of the island, we had an extraordinary visit of porpoises; our ship was sailing in a fresh gale and lowering atmosphere, at the rate of six or seven miles an hour, and notwithstanding her rapidity, these ploughers of the ocean kept pace with ease, and played their gambols for hours successively; whether their appearance always presages a tempest, according to a received opinion among seamen, I will not undertake to assert, but that soon after our arrival in port, much tempestuous weather was experienced, is certain.

The attentive reader will consider a sketch of its history, as not uninteresting; the earliest accounts say it was peopled by the Carthagenians; several old inscriptions in Punic characters have been discovered, and other documents.

St. Paul's shipwreck on this island, described with all that sublime simplicity peculiar to the Bible, in the 27th and 28th chapters of the Acts of the apostles; has, through the deceitfulness of the human heart, caused a superstitious reverence for this island; it was given to the religious order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, in 1530, whose predecessors distinguished themselves in those absurd and impious wars, falsely called holy.

When the Christians were driven out of Palestine by the Saracens, these knights retired to Cyprus; they afterwards took the island of Rhodes from the Turks, and defied it against almost the whole of their unwieldy power for two hundred years. At length after an arduous siege of a whole year, during which the Turks lost eighty thousand men, though the knights were reduced even to six thousand men; they capitulated on advantageous terms, and retired to Malta.

Almost ever since their establishment in this island, they have been at perpetual war with the Turks. Solyman invaded them with an immense army, and after many exertions to gain possession, was obliged to abandon his last effort with the loss of twenty thousand men. This small island was hereby made the means of setting bounds to the overgrown and unwieldy power of the Ottomans, since which the horrors of warfare have considerably softened, and in general have been confined to predatory excursions.*

* This subject loudly and forcibly calls on emperors, kings, presidents and governments, at their peril to consider the tremendous responsibility which fixes on all those, who either directly or

Solemn Appeal.—Delightful Anticipation.

The dreadful sentiment of perpetual warfare and of extermination, has caused terrible devastation and bloodshed. War among the most civilized states is always a dreadful scourge; but, when waged under the idea of rooting, as it were, a nation out of the earth, it becomes proportionably horrible.

But blessed be God, this monstrous sentiment has lately considerably lost its predominancy, especially among the Maltese; their generosity in this respect

indirectly, involve nations in war, and who wantonly inflict its complicated and unspeakable miseries on suffering and innocent humanity.

The unerring oracle of inspiration clearly prophesies of a "nation born in a day," and Christianity cherishes the hope, that nations, instead of appealing to arms, will increasingly find it their true wisdom to submit all national differences and disputes to arbitration.

The anticipation of such glorious events calls forth the best feelings of the christian and philanthropist, and animates every power of the mind. These events, be it remembered, are founded on the sure word of prophecy.

The Gospel was introduced into our otherwise miserable world, with the heavenly proclamation, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good-will towards men." It necessarily produces peace; and every breast which experiences its invigorating, animating, purifying, and peaceable power, must expand to be instrumental in extending this kingdom set up in their own hearts, of "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost," in the hearts of others; and this kingdom must proceed, maugre all opposition which earth and hell can urge against it; yea, making its very enemies subservient to its glorious sway, rising above the whirlwind, sailing amidst the storm of the agitated and agitating, convulsed and convulsive world, passing swiftly, majestically and increasingly on, pressing to that period, so devoutly and ardently longed for by every friend of God and man, "when the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And he shall judge among the nations, and rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Isaiah 2.

Amelioration of Character.—Reflection.—Leave Malta.

has been manifested; for, to their honour be it spoken and recorded, they have lately kindly treated as friends many of that nation, whom their less enlightened ancestors, were wont to consider as their constant and perpetual enemies; and the Turks in many instances, have made a pleasing return to this truly noble conduct of the Maltese.

The writer being present at several interviews of this interesting description, was truly gratified to perceive the delightful sentiments and expressions of friendship and mutual benevolence, triumph over the fierce passions of revenge, animosity and rancour; which destroy all the sweet feelings of humanity, and make a man miserable and wretched in himself, his own tormentor, and a plague to others.

After being amply supplied, and much gratified by our visit to this beautiful and interesting island, we set sail to the eastward. I soon perceived by our course of sailing that the present object of our voyage was still more remote and that we were steering from the fertile, but alas! superstitious regions of Italy, for the once fertile shores of Greece, now generally barren, and enveloped in the darkness of Mahometan imposture and oppression, and immured in the multiplicity of absurd ceremonies and superstition, which so generally mark the ritual of the Greek church, at the present day.

My mind is impressed with the distressing idea, and ready to plunge into the labyrinth of conjecture: Why is it so? Why are these interesting regions so deeply sunk in superstition and error? Scripture answers the question—I check my roving imagination, and rejoice in the anticipation, that the time is hastening, when the Gospel of Jesus shall again visit these once highly favored lands, its light dispel the darkness of the mind, and make known a way of obtaining a blissful immortality to the soul.

CHAP. XII.

Pleasant Passage — Discover Candia, the Ancient Crete—Former State and Commerce—Causes of its Declension — Degeneracy of its Ancient Inhabitants—Visited by St. Paul, who planted the Gospel here—Modern History—Rhodes—Its Situation — Extent — Antiquity — Colossus — Declension—Present State.

IN about a week, with breezes generally favourable, land was announced, and soon discovered to be the eastern part of the island of Candia, the longest island in these seas.

This Crete of the ancients, was soon perceived by our sailing along its coasts, to be in a state of comparative barrenness, far short of its ancient prosperity; in a state of abject servitude, and the soil in consequence, generally abandoned to sterility.

What a gloomy contrast to its ancient state of prosperity, when it could name its hundred cities, and was governed by wise and equitable laws, laws so admirably adapted for the public good, as to be adopted by those penetrating judges who inhabited Sparta.

“ These laws were originally formed by Minos, (whom fable calls the son of Jupiter,) who gained possession of this island, about the year of the world 2720, and about 1284 years before Christ. He was a wise, gentle, and powerful prince; and according to Strabo, the end which he proposed in the establishment of these laws, was to render his subjects happy, by promoting virtue. He banished idleness and luxury from his states, with effeminacy and vicious plea-

tures, the fruitful sources of all vice, and the ruin of nations."

"The happiness Crete enjoyed, under the wise and equitable government of Minos, did not expire with himself; the laws he established subsisted in vigour, even in Plato's time, nine hundred years after; another proof Plato observes of this legislator's wisdom, is the benefits which accrued to Sparta, by the imitation of these laws. Sparta was a neighbouring country, and at that remote period, the most celebrated state of ancient Greece, except Athens."

"Lycurgus had regulated the government of Sparta, on the plan of that of Crete; and it subsisted, generally, in a uniform manner, for several ages, without experiencing those vicissitudes and revolutions so common in the other states of Greece."

One essential defect in these laws, was, that war was a prominent object; though Minos himself attempted to remedy this evil, by ordaining that war should only be made for the sake of peace.

But kingdoms as well as men, are marked and interwoven with frailty, for soon after Plato's time, the people of Crete began to degenerate so much from their ancient reputation, as to produce an entire change of manners. Avarice and luxury, covetousness and collusion, became so predominant, that no gain was considered base, however obtained; hence lying and knavery were so notorious, that to *cretise*, became a proverb among the Greeks, implying to lie and deceive. This was their awful state, when St. Paul so severely reproved them, and cited the testimony of one of their own poets against them.

After planting the Gospel here, Titus was left to model the churches according to Apostolic rule, and ordain proper pastors, who being diligent in their vocation, under the divine blessing, the gross notions of religion, which the inhabitants had imbibed, were

Dreadful Siege.—Depressed Situation.

removed, and they were taught, by the glad tidings of salvation, to worship "God, who is a Spirit, in spirit and in truth.

After various revolutions it became subject to Rome, and after many other important epochs in its history, it fell under the dominion of Venice.

This island had long been in the possession of the Venetians, who for a series of years had an astonishing extent of colonies, and influence in maritime affairs.

After one of the most arduous and dreadful sieges recorded in history, it was conquered, or rather gained by the Turks; for after holding out against the bulk of the unwieldy force of that empire, upwards of twenty years, during which the Venetians lost upwards of eighty thousand men, and the Turks upwards of one hundred and fifty thousand, it at length surrendered on favourable terms. What a melancholy and shocking consideration to a benevolent mind, is such a scene of human misery:

"What ruin from afar

Mark the fell tract of desolating war."

During the extraordinary power and commerce of Venice, it largely partook of its prosperity, and being nearly equi-distant from Europe, Asia, and Africa, it was peculiarly situated, and by its ports, calculated for a rendezvous for shipping, and by its own fertility, it frequently served the mother country, as well as other nations, as a granary; but since its subjugation, it has lost these advantages, its principal harbour is now choaked up, and comparative oppression and barrenness desolates the land; so that we may again quote the poetical sailor:

"Here art and commerce with auspicious reign,
Once breath'd sweet influence on the happy plain;
Now sad reverse! oppression's iron hand,
Enslaves her natives, and despoils the land."

Natural Fertility.—Delightful Anticipation.

Many parts are mountainous, whose sides near the coast, exhibit much of that sterility arising from the want of cultivation; several vallies appear cultivated, and Candia still produces vineyards, myrtles, oranges, lemons, and other fruits; also considerable quantities of corn, pulse, and herbage; and, when favoured with mild governors, the people are excited to industry, and feel the dawn of liberty. May the time soon arrive when these benighted and superstitious countries shall experience, not only all the valuable blessings of their ancient liberty and happiness, but also that superior liberty, which is produced by genuine Christianity alone; and favorable prospects, it is hoped, already appear.

The wind and weather continuing favourable, we soon passed Candia, and came to the extraordinary island of Rhodes, and remained some time in its bay. From its ancient history, and its present state, I surveyed this once wonderful island, with a considerable degree of interest; and would give the young reader some idea of it also.

It is about eighty miles N. E. from Candia, and a short distance from the southern coasts of Asia Minor, about sixty miles in length, and twenty-five in breadth.

When the antiquity of its origin and government, the power and prosperity it enjoyed for several centuries, the wisdom of its ancient laws, especially several of that part of them called maritime, and its extent of commerce with the small domain contained in the whole island, are collectively considered, it becomes less matter of wonder that it should have been so celebrated in history.

This island was peopled in a very early age; historians are not agreed as to the names of its founders, yet acknowledge that it was peopled by the immediate descendants of one of the sons of Noah. They

Island of Rhodes, and its

many years constituted part of the Athenian dominions; but three hundred and fifty-six years before Christ, obtained their independence, and for a long period were celebrated for gratitude and courage.

The fertility of its soil, and its commodious harbours, were admirably calculated to increase its commerce, which extended to almost all parts of the known world, and being situated as well as Candia, at a convenient distance from Africa and Europe, and approximating the continent of Asia Minor, it was thus admirably formed by its situation, constitution, and government, to possess prodigious trade, and even frequently to become the arbiter in the differences that subsisted between overgrown empires, wisely observing a strict and honourable neutrality, and carefully declining any declaration in favour of one nation against another; in the wars which arose in those early periods, its friendship was courted by most princes and chiefs; such is the noble testimony frequently given, either secretly or openly, to integrity and justice.

The Rhodians, by persevering in this noble and prudent conduct, had rendered their city and island very prosperous and flourishing; all the Mediterranean states contributed to the increase of their commerce, and consequently of their opulence; but experiencing that the most advantageous branches of their commerce flowed from Egypt, they probably, as it were, imperceptibly became attached to that government; this preference and attachment at length drew on them the displeasure of Antigonus, one of Alexander's successors, who demanding of the Rhodians succours in his war with Cyprus, was answered by entreaties, not to declare against their ancient friend and ally; but this answer, wise and prudent as it was, drew upon them his displeasure, and he vauntingly and vainly boasted that he should reduce

them to obedience ; for which purpose he assembled a large army and navy, with a vast apparatus of light and heavy machines to batter the city, which was well fortified, and besieged it with sixty thousand men ; while the inhabitants, capable of bearing arms, did not exceed eight thousand.

The Rhodians defended themselves with remarkable firmness, during a whole year ; when Demetrius after having experienced repeated defeats, raised the siege, and the islanders obtained an honourable and advantageous peace.

Demetrius before his departure, to give them a proof of his reconciliation, presented them with all the machines of war, which he had employed against them in the siege ; these the Rhodians afterwards sold for a vast sum, which, with an additional sum of their own, they employed in making the famous Colossus, which was esteemed one of the seven wonders of the world ; it appears to have been a statue intended to represent the sun, from which the island is supposed to have taken its name, sun signifying Rhoda, and was of such immense magnitude, that ships of burthen, in full sail, passed between its legs ; its height was one hundred and fifteen feet. It was destroyed sixty years after by an earthquake.

The harbour of Rhodes was fifty fathoms wide ; at the mouth on each side, was placed one foot of the statue, the face represented the sun, to whom it was dedicated, and in one hand it held a light for the information and direction of mariners ; after the earthquake, the Colossus lay long neglected on the ground.

The loss sustained by this earthquake, was immense ; but uncommon generosity was exhibited by the different nations to whom they sent for succour and relief, who seemed to vie in a noble emulation, who should excel in liberality towards the distressed

History of Rhodes

inhabitants; an example worthy imitation, but too seldom followed.

Rhodes, in consequence of this well-timed and extended liberality, was re-established in a few years, in as much opulence and splendour as before; but the Colossus, for which large sums were given, was not replaced; indeed, instead of replacing it, they pretended that the oracle of Delphos had forbidden it, and given them a command to preserve that money for other purposes, and by this hypocrisy they enriched themselves.

In the middle of the seventh century, Rhodes became subject to the Saracens, who rapidly over-ran a great part of civilized Europe, Asia, and Africa.—The Turks succeeded the Saracens, under whose government it still remains: the natives, in general, are so depressed, that few of them appear to have any traces of their once flourishing state impressed on their minds.

It appears from this brief account, that Rhodes was a kind of phenomenon amidst surrounding nations; its alliance was courted even by Rome itself, when at the summit of prosperity.

In the serious deliberations that followed the defeat of Philip of Macedon, by the Romans, concerning the restoration of the Grecian States to their liberties, one of the most important affairs that ever occupied the attention of the senate, was submitted to their consideration and decision. The Rhodian ambassadors were powerful and successful pleaders for the liberties of their countrymen; the Greeks settled in Asia Minor, &c. in opposition to Eumenes, King of Pergamus, whose interests were closely connected with these countries.

In the following war between the Romans and Perseus, the last king of Macedonia, the neutrality

continued.

of Rhodes was courted by the latter. Perseus sent ambassadors to the Rhodians, and exhorted them to remain quiet, and wait as spectators only, till they saw what resolutions the Romans would take.

The ambassadors of Perseus were received with great respect, but were answered, that "In case of war, the King was desired not to rely upon Rhodians, nor to demand any thing of them, in prejudice to the alliance they had made with the Romans."

But during the same war, the Rhodians finding their trade straitened, and consequently their revenues reduced, sent ambassadors to Rome, stating that "they were no longer able to bear such heavy losses, and with the extraordinary information, that they had sent ambassadors into Macedonia to king Perseus, to inform him, that "the Rhodians thought it necessary that he should make peace with the Romans, and that they had also sent to Rome, to make the same declaration; that if either party refused to come into so reasonable a proposal, the Rhodians would know what they had to do." This declaration failed of its intended effect, the Romans rather treated it with contempt, and intimated their displeasure in strong terms, by depriving them of several privileges, and otherwise reducing their revenues, which pressed so hard on the Rhodians, that they soon after, about the time the other parts of Greece became provinces of Rome, sent deputies to endeavour to appease the wrath of the Romans, and to request admission into their alliance, which after much hesitation, was at length rather reluctantly granted them.

Hence we see that this remarkable people maintained their independence, when the other parts of Greece were brought under the Roman empire, which was now making rapid strides to universal dominion, and thereby without their foresight and penetration, preparing the way for a universality of

Civil and religious Liberty.

language, and a series of events, which prophecy foretold, was to announce the coming of the Messiah.

This island, as well as Candia, at present exhibits a striking view of the uncertainty of national prosperity; and teaches a lesson, of the emptiness of the deepest schemes to ensure its permanence, when degeneracy of character prevails.

It still produces considerable quantities of fine fruits, corn, &c., and when the people are favoured with a mild governor, who feels the importance of encouraging industry, they then emerge from a state of depression and apathy, and exhibit the energies of the mind and powers of the body, in a pleasing and agreeable manner.

What a blessing then is a free and just government, where the laws are calculated to ensure protection and happiness to every individual in the state.

May the benighted inhabitants of these once celebrated countries, soon, very soon, hail the dawn, and experience the blessings of that

“ Liberty of heart, deriv’d from heav’n ;
 Bought with his blood, who gave it to mankind,
 And seal’d with the same token ! It is held
 By charter, and that charter sanction’d sure
 By th’ unimpeachable and awful oath
 And promise of a God ! His other gifts
 All bear the royal stamp and speak them his,
 And are august ; but this transcends them all.”

COWPER.

CHAP. XIII.

Departure from Rhodes—Enter the Gulf of Macri—Water Spout—Macri—Sublimity of its first Appearance—Secure and spacious Harbour—Ruins—Inhabitants—Tour to Kia—Country—Beauty of several Vales—Approach the Suburbs—Interview with several of the Grandees—Refreshment, and Company during Dinner—Present State of the Country—Reflections—Departure—Surprise of the Inhabitants turned into Curiosity—Caravan—Providential Preservation, and Return on Board—Hint to Mariners—Departure.

LEAVING Rhodes, a few hours favourable breezes brought us near the coast of Asia Minor, and early the following morning, we entered the gulf and harbour of Macri.*

About day-light the atmosphere was unsettled and

* The situation, views, and circumstances which press in swift succession on the pious and intelligent mind, retired on the ridges of mountains, which rise majestically round this harbour, are eminently calculated to call up the most lively sensations of gratitude, when considering its distinguished blessings in the primitive ages of Christianity, and commiseration when viewing its present gloomy and melancholy contrast.

The adjacent country gave birth to Saul of Tarsus, afterwards Paul, the distinguished Apostle of the Gentiles, whose early life, conversion, and labours, should excite gratitude and admiration in every heart, but which can only be appreciated by those, who like him, have been brought to say, “I count all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.”

Providential Deliverance.

squally, and we were soon under serious apprehensions of danger from several water spouts.

“ ————— Approaching they descry
 A liquid column lowering, shoot on high,
 The foaming base, an angry whirlwind sweeps,
 Where curling billows rouse the fearful deeps.
 Still round and round the fluid vortex flies,
 Scattering dun night and horror through the skies ;
 The swift volution and th’ enormous train
 Let sages vers’d in nature’s lore explain.
 The horrid apparition still draws nigh
 And white with foam the whirling surges fly,
 But soon this transient undulation o’er,
 The sea subsides, the whirlwinds rage no more.”

FALCONER.

And providentially relieved also from a gloomy atmosphere, by the auspicious regent of the day bursting through with his morning splendour.

The weather became more serene, the day delightful, and we were wafted gently along this interesting coast and bay, whose majestic ridges of mountains, capped with snow, towered far above the more diminutive eminences near the coast, till by a narrow channel, we entered a noble harbour, capable of containing fleets in its capacious bosom, and which surrounded with hills and mountains, seemed to enclose us from every blast, and presented again in miniature, scenes that we had just left when in the gulf.

On the right-hand side, near the entrance, stands the town, situated at the bottom of several hills, which abound with catacombs dug in the solid rock. No sooner were we at anchor, than my anxiety increased to visit these once flourishing, but now comparatively desolated places.

The town or village is pleasantly situated, having a beautiful declivity of verdure on one side ; abrupt mountains and precipices behind ; and, on the other

Town, and its Vicinity to Macri.

side, in a fine harbour, vestiges of a handsome building; a spacious harbour in front, with several ruins on an island at the entrance, and lofty mountains and eminences all around.

It is irregularly built, and rather dirty; the inhabitants appear numerous, but in general, exhibit indolence and wretchedness in their various and disgusting forms; but from many of them we experienced a degree of hospitality unexpected, and therefore, considerably the more pleasing; and by it we received a lesson to guard against that proneness in mankind, which is so apt to form a judgment from external appearances only, and to get prepossessed without investigation.

Near the town stands, in striking contrast, the ruins above mentioned, which, on a nearer inspection, appeared to be the vestiges of a handsome amphitheatre and other ruins of antiquity; the amphitheatre appears to have been principally of the Corinthian order of architecture, and the part in front of the harbour is a regular and lofty arch. It is situated on rising ground, between two hills, and has a gentle descent towards the harbour, of which, and the surrounding mountains, it has a comprehensive view.

The appearance of the morning sun, rising above these snow-capped mountains, and bursting with powerful splendour on the deep vale, which contains the harbour, &c. are very grand and enlivening.

“ The lessening cloud,
 The kindling azure, and the mountains brow,
 Illum'd with fluid gold, his near approach
 Betoken glad. Lo! now, apparent, all
 Aslant the dew bright earth, and colour'd air;
 He looks in boundless majesty abroad;
 And sheds the shining day, that burnish'd plays
 On rocks, and hills, and towers, and wandering stream,
 Till wide unveil'd
 The face of nature shines.” THOMSON.

Visit Kia.

After visiting the town and its vicinity, we returned to our ship, and the following day extended our tour, penetrating the country as far as Kia, a principal town, and several miles from the harbour.

Not considering that a native was necessary to accompany us, both as an interpreter and guide, and with a curiosity and zeal, which in idea had already surmounted every difficulty, and levelled every obstruction, in the anticipation of exploring a little of this once interesting country, myself and two others took our departure.

Having presently got over the first mountains, and along several narrow passes, and difficult descents, we proceeded with almost unabated vigour, in the direction that we judged led us to the principal objects of our curiosity, the town and inhabitants of Kia; we frequently ascended and passed over barren and rugged mountains, which bade defiance to the fostering hand of the cultivator; but were as frequently gratified by vales which exhibited their delightful verdure with double force to the eye, when beheld in this striking contrast.

These vales, though naturally fertile, are far from a state of cultivation; even in the precincts of the town to which we were now advancing, and which has a remarkable verdant vicinity, we already perceived convincing proofs that the inhabitants were in a state of degradation. Arrived at the suburbs, we perceived several groups of men, who on our nearer approach exhibited, to us at least, countenances expressive of disapprobation and surprise. We now, for the first time since our departure, fully perceived our inadvertence and imprudence, in adventuring without a guide, over inhospitable hills and precipices, to a place which we began to fear contained still more inhospitable inhabitants.

We now slackened our pace, and considered that

Country, and first Appearance of the Inhabitants.

precipitancy in returning, might convince them we were suspicious, and urge pursuit; and hesitation either in returning or proceeding, would expose us to danger. Being confident in the integrity and friendliness of our intentions, we gradually approached, and with careful attention saluted them, which was answered by an indolent inclination of the head. They were all seated according to the Turkish costume, apparently basking in the sun, and we passed the first party without one of them rising from their seats.

Encouraged to proceed, a second group was passed in a similar manner; but some women who were near them, appeared frightened, fled at our approach, and viewed us at a distance with surprise and fear; sorry to see them thus intimidated, with increasing caution of giving offence, we entered the verge of the town; when advancing as with general consent, they all caught their children in their arms, and with the fears of a mother, apprehensive for the safety of a beloved child, fled to their houses, and shut themselves in, and we saw no more of them till our return.

We continued to persevere in reaching the summit of the town, though uneasy at the alarm of the women, and by every sign in our power, endeavoured to convince the men, who were standing near us, of the motives of our visit, and at length prevailed on two or three of them to conduct us to the governor. Thus accompanied, and feeling an increasing appetite, we proceeded to the presence of the grandees, hoping that besides the gratification of an interview, we should derive the more substantial satisfaction of a good dinner; we soon arrived in their presence. Their dress was splendid, and with a large sash or band round the waist, produced a formidable appearance.

Our introduction was ceremonious to a degree, and so much time was taken up in frivolous formali-

Interview with the Turks.

ties, that the fare of a poor cottage, would have been more gratifying to our feelings than all the etiquette, and unsubstantial honour of his excellency and attendants.

With the little Italian each party possessed, and with gestures of hunger, we faintly communicated to these grandees, that we were really Englishmen, and in want of a dinner. At length orders were given, and we followed our guides to an apartment, consisting of two rooms on the ground floor; the sitting room was covered with a carpet, on which were several handsome cushions to recline, which were fully occupied. On releasing our shoes from their burdens, we were admitted, introduced, seated, and soon surrounded by several of apparent consequence, who presently took their seats on the floor beside us, and began a general smoaking. We waited some time, and with a craving appetite, watched every attendant that entered, hoping to gladden our hearts and eyes by the sight of a plentiful supply. At length coffee was served up, which we received with thankfulness, from the idea that bread would at least presently appear to accompany it; but after waiting nearly half an hour, we found we were severely disappointed, for tobacco and coffee alone were still our only support; in the mean time we were treated with civility and respect, and they offered us their pipes, no common condescension, and to do them justice, probably they had no proper conception of the keenness of our appetite.

The situation to which we were reduced, made it necessary, as the afternoon advanced, for us either to obtain our wish, or consider of an immediate return. We therefore made a last effort, and by all the smattering of various languages, and dumb eloquence in our power, at length made them fully understand, that something more substantial than either coffee or to-

Refreshment and Company at Dinner.—Reflection.

bacco, was absolutely necessary to appease our hunger. We were, therefore, immediately conducted to what may be deemed an eating house, where a dinner of pulse was soon served up, and we shortly got clear of our uneasy inmate, experiencing, in an eminent degree, the truth of the adage—"Hunger needs no sauce;" the fare, though pulse only, was sweet indeed, and a glass of wine after crowned the repast.

Our company during dinner consisted of Greeks only, whose appearance of humility formed a contrast to several of those whom we had lately left; it was served up by the woman, attended by one of her children, who with all the family appeared in an abject state, for on offering her a little of the wine, which they so kindly furnished us with, she shrunk back, with an expression of surprise at our condescension, which excited ours also; and the man understanding a little Italian, we enquired the reason; he replied in substance as follows: "Such, says he, is the inferiority and oppression that we labour under, that it is in general thought too great an honour for a Turk to present a person of this description with any token of respect, and forward in her to accept it, which is the reason of her timidity in not accepting the wine from you." The eldest child had on a badge of servitude. The husband appeared intelligent, he had travelled, and I was sorry our stay would not admit a more extensive conversation.

What an abject state does this country now exhibit, contrasted with its ancient prosperity; where the ancient Greeks once reigned and enjoyed equal laws, and the blessings of civilization; where agriculture and all kinds of industry were encouraged; arts and sciences flourished, and liberty was understood and enjoyed.

Now we behold their descendants reduced to wretched servitude and degradation; few effectual

Curiosity of the Inhabitants.—Farewell.

laws to bind, equally; king and people, the governors and governed; little protection of property, or stimulus to industry; few golden harvests, fruitful vineyards, or smiling vales; but pride, ignorance, indolence, and other degrading passions and dispositions, display their baneful effects, in the poverty, misery, and ignorance of the oppressed Greeks.*

May they soon be enlightened to see that laws ought equally to protect and provide for the well being of every individual in the state, that honest industry and enterprize should be encouraged; and that he who sows should also reap the fruit of his labour for his own advantage, as well as for others. The reader will excuse this digression, and we will now return to the completion of the tour.

Thankfully taking leave of our kind host and hostess, we were reconducted to the same apartment and company we had lately left, and after a short stay, we took our leave with less ceremony than at our first introduction, and upon the whole, satisfied and thankful for our reception.

On our return, the surprise and fear of the female part of the inhabitants, first mentioned, appeared to be turned into curiosity, though none of them came into the streets, yet we understood that they enquired the reason of our journey, and several of them viewed us in passing. I felt thankful that the groundless alarm had subsided, and was anxious to impress on the minds of the inhabitants at large, that our leave was taken with sincere wishes for the liberation and happiness of all that were oppressed and in misery. With these sensations we passed through the streets

* Events more favourable for the interest of religion and humanity have taken place since the writer's visit; events, which tend to cheer the pious mind in the anticipation, that ere long, the glad tidings of salvation shall again visit these interesting regions, and make this "wilderness blossom as the rose."

Caravan.

and spectators, many of whom viewed us with apparent complacency.

A curious scene soon made its appearance, which by its novelty and singular sounds, arrested our attention. It was a caravan, probably from Smyrna, or some other place of note; which consisted of about two hundred men, mounted on about half the number of camels and dromedaries. In front came the grandees and other officers, whose countenances in general, indicated too much of that superciliousness and ostentation, so prevalent in Oriental countries; others again looked more manly; when these moved past, there next appeared persons of an inferior rank, and so on through several gradations. About the centre was a Turkish band of music, consisting of twelve or fourteen men in a tawdry uniform; their loudest instrument emitted sounds similar to a bagpipe, though not quite so melodious; several others were more grateful to the ear, the remainder were of inferior note; but all contributed to form harmony, which in the midst of a mountainous and uninhabited country, was peculiarly agreeable.

Our journey now began to be tedious, the shades of evening were beginning to make their appearance, and we had several miles to go over mountains, precipices, and narrow passages, which are often infested with wild beasts, of which we saw several of the wolf species at a distance; forebodings would have rendered the road still more tedious and fatiguing.— Urged therefore, by the fear of being benighted on these roads, prompted by an eager desire of reaching the summit of the last mountain, and anticipating the happiness of ere long being in safety, added vigour to our efforts, when we soon reached a caravansary, and after various difficulties, fears of wild beasts, &c. surmounted the last hill, and were once more grati-

Caravansaries—Departure.

fied with a view of the harbour and ship. With cheerful steps we went along the descent, took boat, and through mercy joined our countrymen again.

These caravansaries are often mentioned in history, some of them are spacious and commodious, affording comfortable accommodation and refreshment to man and beast, which to a weary traveller, in a hot climate, prove particularly pleasing. The one we passed was of an inferior description, having a reservoir of water, and temporary accommodation, only without lodgings; but the sight of a safe retreat for a few minutes only, was to us a grateful view.

The government deserves commendation for the part it takes towards the building, and furnishing those hospitable inns for the comfort of the weary and benighted traveller; who would otherwise often perish on uninhabited and dangerous roads, and the more dangerous passages over trackless deserts.

During this journey, we had from the mountains an extensive view of the country towards Satalia.

After exploring the harbour, we prepared for our departure. I will conclude my account of Macri, with a hint to seamen, who are induced to visit this port. It is situated at the S.E. part of the gulf of the same name, which contains two other spacious harbours, named Karagatch and Marmorice.

Macri may be known by several remarkable islands to the northward. In sailing for them, the harbour gradually opens between rocks, which a stranger at first sight, would conceive very unlikely to afford a passage.

As soon as the harbour is nearly open, another island appears with vestiges of ruins on it: this must be left on the larboard hand in going in; and bordering nearer the starboard side, you pass safely through, and are gratified with a fine harbour, and can anchor

Marmora and its Vicinity.

within about half a mile from the town, in five, six, seven, or eight fathoms.*

Having obtained a supply of vegetables, fruit and wood, we took a final farewell of this unfrequented, but to us not altogether inhospitable place.

CHAP. XIV.

Arrival at Marmora—Excellent Harbour—Description of the Mosque—Author present at their Devotions—Hospital on Shore—Recovery of the Sick—View and Productions of this extensive Bay—Inhabitants—Turkish Dress—Dress, Appearance, Agility, Strength, and Industry of the Grecian Women—Departure—Visit Karagatch Eligible spot for the Sick—Alarmed by Wolves—Simple Method of intimidating them—Peregrinations through the Woods—Discover Huts—Caution of the Inhabitants—Acquire Confidence—Fortitude—Strength, and Perseverance of the Women.

IN a serene and reviving morning we passed into the bay or gulf: full of ideas, created by the expectation of soon seeing more interesting objects, and were borne to the other extremity, and entered its westernmost harbour of Marmora, in the neighbourhood of Rhodes, the same evening.

* These remarks may be serviceable, and the writer is the more induced to give them, as the fine harbours in this gulf, appear very incorrectly delineated in most of the charts he has seen.

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Bayrische
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Writer visits the Mosque.

This also appears an extraordinary entrance ; at first view, the low part of a peninsula appears the only passage, but on drawing near, the apparent deception vanishes, and the real entrance opens. This entrance is narrow and safe, and conveys into as fine and capacious an harbour as I ever beheld, surrounded with immense ridges of mountains, many of whose majestic summits, capped with snow, often projecting their lofty tops above the clouds, strike the mind with the sublimity of nature.

At the N. E. part is the town, of some note among the Turks. On our visiting it, I found a similarity in its irregular and ill-constructed buildings with those we had just left at Macri ; but the Mosque appeared far superior ; its dome is conspicuous from every part of the harbour. On a nearer inspection it proved to be built of coarse stone, the roof of an oval form, with a dome.

I was favored with an opportunity of entering the mosque on a particular day, when worship was performed by a crowded audience ; the attendance was so full, that many knelt down in the outer court. At their entrance, after throwing off their slippers, they all fell on their knees, and after a short pause, and uttering something very fast, they joined the general chorus, which to me appeared thanksgiving. From an erect posture they often fell in a state of prostration and kneeling, and after joining the general service again in these positions, would often pause, and appear in mental prayer between, and then in a moment spring on their feet again and join the chorus, which was sometimes so loud that it became a shout, The leader's voice was heard distinctly during the more moderate exclamations, and all seemed to pay great attention to his manner, and to follow his motions with aptitude ; and during the whole service, not one of them, that I could perceive, sat down. Their

Pleasing View.

remarkable activity, in falling at once from their legs on their knees, and even to a state of prostration, and frequently rising without the assistance of their hands, excited my surprise. They in general appeared very attentive to the service they were engaged in, and their whole behaviour in a false religion, was such as might form a lesson to many careless Christians, so called, who are to be found in every audience, slighting and treating with indifference, the inestimable privilege of having instruction how to worship "God in spirit and in truth."

Several of the ship's company being sickly, and fearing the increase of contagion, the first object was to fix on an eligible spot on shore, on which to erect tents for their reception. This was soon performed, the sick were removed, and the vessel cleansed and purified, by washing with vinegar, and smoaking the hold and decks throughout, which proved beneficial, and appeared to stop the prevalency of disease. Such were the pleasing effects of our hospital on shore, that the most of those removed, were in a few days evidently on the recovery. Good air, pleasing prospects around, and the verdant spot on which they were situated, with attention and care, under Providence, soon made several of their countenances beam with health and vigour.

This delightful bay is many miles round, and exhibits much of the picturesque and sublimity of nature. The mountains and precipices are often covered with active animals, principally goats, and intersected with water-falls, which during the rainy season (a description of which will be given hereafter) swell into cataracts, and often deluge the vales and plains below. The declivities, with the more level parts, are often covered with abundance of myrtle, and the more woody parts heighten the contrast seen in this comprehensive view; the vales appear delightful, and are

Temperance of the Inhabitants.

certainly capable of a high degree of cultivation. The lilies and other sweet flowers, which rise spontaneously, with a number of sanative and aromatic herbs, and other productions, prove the natural fertility of the soil.

The inhabitants are pretty numerous in the town, and consist of a variety ; but the principal native residents are Turks and Greeks. During our stay we were well supplied with vegetables and fruit. They have a market, and several of the manufactures exposed to sale are curious, especially the camels-hair productions.

They are remarkably temperate, and often expressed their wonder at the quantity of animal food taken by an Englishman ; indeed there is some reason for such a remark, as perhaps no other nation in the world produce more unskilful caterers ; so it may be said perhaps there is no nation on the globe of which they may not learn striking lessons of temperance ; and without intruding into the medical art, we may also observe, that it is easy to demonstrate that many of the most obstinate and dangerous diseases are produced by repletion.

“ There are a number of us creep
 Into this world to eat and sleep ;
 And know no reason why they're born,
 But merely to consume the corn,
 Devour the cattle, fowl, and fish,
 And leave behind an empty dish.
 Ravens and crows might fill their places,
 And swallow corn and carcasses.”

The Turks dress has been often described ; the turban appears their principal distinction, and their belts, containing pistols and sabres, excite more terror than respect. The poor Greeks, who are not allowed the use of them, are seldom admitted into their company.

Visit Karagatch.

The Grecian women are in general comely, but the generality being accustomed to labour, and bearing heavy burdens, at an early age, have an inclination forwards. The general dress is easy : over their body they throw a loose robe, drawn in similar to a morning dress in England. Their agility and industry is surprising. The turkish women are rarely seen by strangers, being as much confined, effeminate, and delicate, as the others are exposed, industrious, and hardy.

In January, 1801, we made a short voyage to the centre harbour of this gulf, and the next day after our sailing, anchored in it, and found it a commodious and spacious anchorage. The similar majestic appearance of mountains and vales met us as at Macri, no town, or even village was to be seen from our ship, but smoke was perceived ascending from various parts of the woods and vales.

Our first object, as before, was to remove our sick, and on landing a beautiful vale presented itself to view, appearing to possess superior advantages, from its gradual elevation and neighbouring beach, to that we had just left. Here, then, the hospital tent was pitched, the sick immediately moved into it, with the medical men and nurses, and the same beneficial effects were soon experienced as at Marmorice. The principal hindrance to their first advances to recovery was occasioned by the alarm, terror, and consequent depression of spirits, produced by the fearful visits of wolves, whose dreadful howling and approaches caused serious apprehensions for their safety, which was nearly altogether removed the ensuing nights, by kindling a large fire, and carefully feeding it with fuel, after which their approaches were so distant that the yelling only was heard ; and all apprehensions of near visits were removed, by the terror of our remedy. These coasts are much frequented by wild boars also, and the inhabitants, in tracing and

Visits in the Vicinity.

taking them, display much agility, and seldom receive any injury from these animals. Buffaloes are so numerous and so little valued, that permission was granted to take for present use, by presenting the inhabitants with their skins, which are often considered by them of more value than the carcase.

Our stay was prolonged, and I embraced the earliest opportunity of visiting and exploring these solitary coasts. My first object was to view the vale, near the hospital, where the smoke was perceived. On tracing its source, a little enclosure was discovered, and while endeavouring to find an entrance, a female sprung from the door, and with wonderful agility escaped by another passage. We were surprised and distressed at her apprehensions, but the eye soon lost her in an extensive wood at the end of the valley. Without attempting to proceed to investigate the interior of the habitation, we retired, but on exploring this fertile vale soon after, a man was discovered going towards the hut. I was glad of this circumstance, to enquire respecting the affrighted woman, and anxious to see whether she had returned to her hut again. The man, whom we afterwards found was her husband, gave me a friendly reception, and satisfied my mind of the safety of his partner, who was returned, and her fears allayed on discovering nothing in her cot had been injured; and that the reason of her temporary alarm was the novelty and unexpected appearance, having probably never seen an Englishman before. From this vale and vicinity we procured a considerable quantity of wood, and those of our men who slept on shore, literally reposed on beds of myrtle, which abound in such quantities as to cover a great part of the coast, and some of its largest trees were often included in the fire-wood, to obtain which was the object of our visit.

Another short Tour.

In a day or two, being properly provided, a party of us proceeded to investigate the interior farther, and to endeavour to procure a wild boar, which, when young, furnishes acceptable food.

We proceeded through woods, abounding with buffaloes, and over precipices covered with goats, till a volume of smoke raised our expectations; increasing our pace, we soon arrived at a collection of huts or cottages, formed into what, in this country, may be deemed a regular village. These habitations were composed of a few boughs of the wild olive, and other trees, twined round and interwoven with a few uprights, which form the pillars and extent of the hut; from these uprights or poles is extended a coarse hair matting, which constitutes the roof, in the middle of which is one, and sometimes two, other poles, raising it in that part, and causing the water to descend during the rainy season; near the door-way is an opening, forming the chimney. At one end of the enclosure is a small apartment for the young kids, which require much care and nourishment; opposite to this is the bed-place, consisting principally, of matting, with skins for a covering; and between this and the door is the fire-place, or the hearth, with only the hole in the roof to draw off the smoke, which often arising from green wood, is to a stranger very unpleasant, though the force of habit renders the natives indifferent to it.*

In some of these huts are families of eight, and even ten, in number, who all appear to enjoy remarkable health; this must, in a great measure, arise from their habits of temperance and labour; for necessity compels

* The head dress of some of the females is quite a curiosity; the hair round the forehead is curiously braided with numerous pieces of small coin, principally of the adulterated silver of the country, intermixed with a few of gold, which, contrasted with the homely clothing of the body, forms rather a ludicrous appearance. —A proof of the natural pride of the human heart.

Activity and Care of the Females.

these people to industry and activity. Every inhabitant has his fire-arms, with which he commonly procures a meal for himself and family; the wild boars serve them for food, and their skins make vessels for culinary uses, supply the men with wearing apparel, and form a part of their beds. The wolves are very numerous, and frequently watch near the huts, but they are seldom known to attack a human being: so accustomed are the inhabitants to scenes of this description, that a female of this country would not be more alarmed at seeing a wolf or wild boar near her dwelling, than a female in England would be at seeing a mouse or a frog.

The tops of the stupendous mountains and precipices are frequently covered with innumerable goats, which constitute the principal animal food of the inhabitants, in which they, however, seldom indulge. Their chief food is coarse bread, similar to oaten, goats' milk, pulse, a little coffee, and rarely an egg: the women perform their household work, and frequently ascend these precipices and mountains in quest of their goats, and return with an infant slung on their back, who, with its little arms thrown around the neck of its fond mother, smiles unconscious amidst danger. It seldom occurs that any accident happens either to the parent or child during these perilous excursions. These females deserve a still further description. Not only have they, in this manner, to traverse mountains, attend the kids at home, and perform all other household work; but when their husbands, who comparatively indolent and unfeeling, are retired to rest, they have often to secure the goats in the precincts of their habitations, and see that every thing is safe around their dwellings; which reason points out as peculiarly the province of the man.

At our first visit there was considerable alarm and timidity about these people, which is easily accounted

Extend the Visit.

for from the novelty of our appearance, and at an unexpected time; from repeated expressions of friendship, and acts of kindness, however, their apprehension and reserve gradually wore off; and at length there appeared an emulation among them, who should have the preference in our esteem. The men appeared to possess a degree of apathy and indolence at home, which prevented their activity in bartering, but received our articles, when obtained by their wives or children, with a considerable degree of avidity and pleasure. We soon opened a negociation and obtained a regular supply of milk, and frequently a fine kid, which was as delicious as young lamb in England, and our participation in their wholesome fare was considered as a treat; in short, our friendship and esteem was so heightened during our stay, that we parted with mutual regret.

At another excursion, being well equipped for a longer journey, we penetrated still farther into this mountainous country, and travelling principally in an eastern direction, were soon gratified with new and romantic scenery, and though frequently plunged into thickets and woods, the gaining the vales beyond smoothed the rugged road, and the prospect of a view of a village from the adjacent mountains encouraged the ascent; we now reached an extensive wood well stocked with buffaloes, most of which retired on our approach; at the extremity of this wood we entered on a spacious morass, teeming with frogs, whose discordant notes grated on the ear, and soon perceived the holes of wild boars and several human footsteps; this was a stimulus; and following the tracts, and gaining a pleasant eminence, we were gratified with the view of a few neat huts: on entering the precincts, several of the female inhabitants, as at Macri, retreated with precipitation, nor could all our

Departure.—Reflection.

endeavours bring them to a degree of confidence sufficient to barter, and not having the opportunity of repeating our visits at this distance, we were prevented the satisfaction of removing their fears, by repeated acts of kindness.

On our return we joined several men going in pursuit of wild boars, their method of tracing and surrounding, and manner of attack, excited surprise; we parted with mutual expressions of friendship, proceeded through woods, over mountains, whose summits, declivities, and precipices, abounded with goats, whose agility, compared with the buffaloes beneath, formed a pleasing contrast; and arrived at the last wood before the prowling of wolves was heard, and reached our ship in safety.

These inhabitants, I am convinced, enjoy more content and happiness, than can be produced in the voluptuous refinements of their cities: far from these temptations, feeling less the effects of oppression, and having every thing within themselves necessary to supply their contracted wants, they are comparatively happy, and had they an experimental knowledge and love of Christianity, emperors might envy their situation.

“It is blessed to trace in every clime, and among all persons, the gracious hand of the Lord, making every king and every state subservient to the purposes of his providence. Happiness is not local; neither doth it consist in outward circumstances. But the only sweetener of life is, and must be, pure religion; when a man is brought acquainted with the great Author of all his mercies, then every mercy is felt and enjoyed. Every station is alike blessed when he who spreads the table, presides over it, and gives the blessing. But without the knowledge of the Giver, and consciousness of his presence, the poor man and

Recovery of the Sick.

the rich man, the European and the African, are all alike void of that which is essential to crown all."

CHAP. XV.

*Recovery of the Sick — Revisit Marmorice — Storm
Critical Situation — Providential Escape — Ef-
fects on Shore — Distress and Danger of the Sick
— Reflections — Dr. White — Transition to a still
more happy Period — Outline of Ancient History
— Sentiments of Solon — Socrates — Plato — Re-
flections.*

AT the expiration of a fortnight we were gratified with the recovery of several of our sick, and the convalescence of several others, and at the end of less than three weeks, all were able to return to the ship; soon after we took our leave of Karagatch. Passing again into the gulf, we approached the island of Rhodes, had a pleasing view of this entrance into the Archipelago, eminently calculated to produce a train of ideas, concerning the history of its celebrated islands and vicinity; and contrasting its once flourishing and prosperous situation with its present declension, the reflecting mind will commiserate its general depression.

The following morning we arrived again off Marmorice and entered the harbour, which contained a fleet of upwards of two hundred sail, principally British, enclosed in a port, whose stupendous mountains form a magnificent amphitheatre, which, with groves

Storm.—Lightening,

of myrtle, vales of lively green, and several fine beaches, all bursting on the eye at a short entrance from the gulf, excite pleasing ideas, and form a striking contrast to the following.

The 8th of this month was ushered in with lightning and showers of rain, with little wind, and variable; towards noon it increased to awful thunder and vivid lightning, with heavy showers of hail.

“ The skies asunder torn, a deluge pour,
The impetuous hail descends in whirling shower.”

At this time I happened to be in a boat, at a distance from the ship, returning on board, when the hail stones, many of which were nearly as large as a pigeon's egg, beat so powerfully and severely on the hands of the rowers, that after considerable perseverance, they were obliged to desist, and rest on their oars, to screen their hands under their jackets and great coats. I expostulated with, and endeavoured to rally them, but on exposing one of my own hands to the fury of the shower, I was instantly convinced of the necessity of shelter; in the course of fifteen minutes our boat was one third full, and lay like a log on the water, and had not the shower quickly ceased, several boats, and ours among the rest, must have sunk; but providentially the squall, for an interval subsided, and all of us were preserved.

The night was increasingly awful. As its shades drew on, it became a settled storm, rendered still more dreadful by thunder, lightning, and torrents of rain, all heightened by the dreadful reverberation of the mountainous amphitheatre which nearly surrounded us, and by signal guns of distress.

“ The ethereal dome in mournful pomp array'd
Now lurks behind impenetrable shade,
Now flashing round, intolerable light
Redoubles all the terrors of the night;

and its Effects.

Loud and more loud the rolling peels enlarge,
And blue on deck their blazing sides discharge;
Now in a deluge bursts the livid flame,
And dread concussion rends the ethereal frame."

I never beheld lightning so vivid, it swept along the deck with a power and brightness, which frequently left us in total darkness, and I several times feared the organs of vision were gone. Every avenue in the ship was carefully stopped, and wet swabs and coverings laid over all to prevent the dreadful fluid penetrating the interior, which was providentially prevented by the seasonable and copious thunder showers which always prove a mercy in the midst of apprehended judgment.

Towards the dawn the storm abated, and at daylight we found ourselves and ship in safety, delivered out of this distress and danger; while the next ship, at the distance of about a hundred yards, had one of her masts shivered to pieces by the electric shock, and several vessels were driven on shore; providentially but few seamen were injured, and all the largest ships rode out the gale.

But on shore the calamity was dreadful indeed, a weight of water falling on the mountains, swelled the rivulets into rivers, and the water falls into mighty cataracts, and sweeping over the lower parts of the bay, with increasing violence, inundated the vales beneath, and carried desolation in its train; several of the hospital tents were overthrown, and the sickly inhabitants washed from their couches, several of whom soon after expired; and had not that Omnipotent Being, "who walketh on the wings of the wind," controlled the conflicting elements, and caused the torrent unexpectedly to cease, most of these invalids must have perished by the storm.

After the gale had ceased, and fine weather ensued, we again went on shore to procure water, vegetables, and fruit, and to purchase some of the manufactures

peculiar to Turkey. On a further acquaintance with these people, I was glad to find our conclusions too hastily drawn from transient visits, and some forbidding external appearances, in general groundless; for after repeated visits and dealings with them, such integrity was generally evinced, as commanded respect, and induced confidence.

In their trading with our people, though their prices were apparently high, they almost invariably asked for goods neither more or less than they would take for them, and were often struck with surprise when any attempt was made to undervalue the article, and when repeated, would frequently express their abhorrence of such duplicity. We found easy access to their public places of resort, and as before related, I had free admittance to their mosque; in short, these people shewed us such a degree of honourable attention, and exhibited such decision of character, and such hospitality, as were the more pleasing, because rather unexpected.

We were now favoured with the company of Dr. White, whose benevolent views were directed to investigate more particularly the nature and causes of the plague; his amiable manners, gained on all on board, and his interesting conversation, connected with his disinterested and philanthropic scheme, so endeared him to those who had the happiness of his intimacy, that we fondly hoped to have had it continued across the Levant; but other affairs demanding his presence, his removal became necessary, and we parted with mutual regret; for my own part I was so prepossessed in his favour during his temporary residence on board our ship, that my mind felt a keen sensation at parting so soon with so valuable a man; he took his leave with best wishes, and I saw him no more. The reader will probably be anxious to hear the success of his plan on his arrival in Egypt, and

Contemplation on the Character of Paul, &c.

the writer will have the painful task to recite his falling a victim to a zeal directed for the happiness of man.

During our excursions, we had from the mountains an extensive view of the country and of the coast.

Viewing with a considerate mind, the state of these now comparatively desolated countries, and contemplating it in the mirror of the sacred Scriptures, it is easy to extend the ideas, and fix them on that happy period when the Gospel was planted and promulgated throughout these countries, by that indefatigable, faithful, zealous, and affectionate herald of salvation, the apostle Paul, who was a native of it.

Here the Gospel flourished in its purity; attended by a divine energy, it ran and was glorified: how pleasing to a benevolent mind to consider this servant of God, with his associates, travelling these and other lands, preaching the glad tidings of salvation in all its fulness, freeness, and purity; attended by a divine and miraculous power to render it effectual to the conversion of the hearers. Planting churches, appointing bishops, or presbyters, and deacons in one place, then committing them to the Saviour's grace; and travelling on in other directions with the blessed embassy of peace and salvation, in opposition to all the various and continued powerful and inveterate enemies with which they had to contend; gaining fresh strength, in and from every conflict, rising superior to every danger, and triumphing in the God of their salvation.

“ Surely the wisdom and power of God is irresistibly manifest here, to every one who can attend without prejudice, even to the dictates of his natural reason. What but a divine authority and power could have enabled twelve obscure, poor, unprotected, and vilified men, amidst the deepest poverty, cruel hatred, calumnious reproach, and inhuman persecution from

Demonstration of the Power of Grace.

enemies, to carry on the vast project of enlightening and converting a world? that they should carry it on without ever appearing to covet any outward honour or wealth, and that they should form a system of doctrines and morals infinitely superior in sense and dignity, to all the productions of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, and other renowned philosophers and moralists of the heathen world? How astonishing is it, that these few preachers, without the smallest encouragement from earthly powers, should so triumph over the rage, craft, and power of the infuriated Jews; triumph over the pride, the policy, and power of the Roman empire, when at its full strength and maturest sagacity; over the pride of learning and the obstinacy of ignorance, hatred, prejudice and lust; over the hardened inclinations, deep-rooted customs, and long-fixed laws of Jews and heathens; and that, contrary to every temptation from outward advantage, nay, notwithstanding every conceivable form of opposition, the Gospel should within a few years after Christ's ascension, be preached in almost every corner of the vast Roman empire, and the countries adjacent; and that multitudes, at the hazard of every temporal loss, or punishment from men, should readily believe, constantly adhere to, and cheerfully practise the same."

"It is equally astonishing, that for more than seventeen hundred years, notwithstanding innumerable persecutions, together with the wickedness of professors, and the inconceivable villanies or base indifference of many of the clergy, this Gospel has been more or less successful in reforming the hearts and lives of multitudes in almost every nation of importance under heaven. Is it not then a standing miracle? Are we not forced to exclaim, "This is

History of the four Great Monarchies.

the Lord's doing, it is marvellous in our eyes."* — Psalm cxviii. 23.

The celebrated antiquity and history of this country, so closely connected with ancient Greece, of which it formed a part, would take a volume to sketch it, but I can hardly refrain from attempting a few of its outlines, adding some reflections as we proceed.

About the time of David, King of Israel, the Athenians spread their colonies over Ionia, and soon after, all the lesser Asia was filled with Grecian cities.

After the defeat and flight of the hundreds of thousands of Persia, under the vain-glorious, stupid, and cruel Xerxes, by a few thousand Greeks, animated by a love of liberty these countries threw off the Persian yoke, and gladly united with their countrymen, and by this confederacy preserved their liberties, in common with Greece, during the time that this empire subsisted, partook of its laws, arts, and sciences, and enjoyed under the same auspices, that happiness which was in a manner peculiar to Greece.

But avarice, working on the corruptions and divisions, the love of ease and pleasure of the disorganized Grecian states, at length introduced Philip of Macedon, till then obscure and inconsiderable, who, in a short time, found means to bring it under his yoke, and Alexander† his son united them all together,

* See an excellent introductory Preface to Brown's Self Interpreting Bible.

† See Daniel chapters 7 and 8, where 600 years before the Christian era, among other descriptions of the rise, decline, and fall of the principal empires of the globe, Alexander is pointed out by the figure of a leopard, with four wings, and of a goat, with a notable horn, as significant of craft, cruelty, power, and the rapidity of his conquests, and the words "smote him, cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him," appear to refer to the three famous victories obtained over Darius at Granicus, at Issus, and at Arbela. In twelve years time, he, in effect, conquered the world, and then sat down and wept because he had no

The four Great Monarchies

and about A.M. 3672, raised up an empire upon the ruins of the Persian, less opulent and showy, but more powerful and warlike. He proceeded from hence with about 35,000 choice men, to overturn the empire of Persia, and to conquer the civilized world, which having in a great measure, in the course of twelve years, rapidly completed, fulfilled the clear and wonderful predictions in Daniel,* and other parts of the sacred writings.†

more to conquer; but the great arm that had done all this execution was broken, for he was cut off in the prime of life, by a drunken surfeit or poison.

* Who from being a captive, soon rose to the first offices of state, under three of the greatest monarchs in the world, Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, and Darius, and saw the rise and fall of the ponderous and unwieldy Babylon, foretold the rise and fall of the Persian and Macedonian empire, the restoration of the Jews under Cyrus, the more gigantic, powerful, and despotic sway of Rome, and its subserviency also to the church of God, who uttered the memorable prophecy of the Messiah; redemption by him, and the final destruction of Jerusalem and of the Jewish church and nation, for their rejection of him, with their glorious restoration in the latter days.

† Can the reader peruse the following inimitable description of the tremendous fall of Babylon, without being struck with serious reflection:—

“ Then thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth. The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet; they break forth into singing. Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come on against us. Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming; it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? Art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols; the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee! How

By which means the Grecian language, the most copious, and perhaps correct, that was ever spoken

art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.--- They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, *saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?* All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, *and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.* Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people; the seed of evil doers, shall never be renowned. Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers, that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities. For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD. I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water; and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts. The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have proposed, so shall it stand: That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot; then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders. This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?"

And again, Cyrus, 150 years before his birth, called by name, and in due time raised up, for the two-fold purpose of the conquest of Babylon, and delivering Israel from the Babylonish captivity.

"Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I *am* the LORD that maketh all *things*, that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; that frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh

Awful Description.

in the world, became common to all the nations conquered or subdued by Alexander. A translation of

diviners mad; that turneth wise *men* backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish; that confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers: That saith of Cyrus, *He* is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure; even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. Thus saith the Lord to the anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron; and I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I the LORD, which call *thee* by thy name, *am* the God of Israel. For Jacob, my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name; I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me; I am the LORD, and *there is none else, there is no God besides me*; I girded thee, though thou hast not known me; that they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.*"

After various successes, Cyrus felt an increasing desire to conquer Babylon. Herodotus relates this city to have been surrounded with walls, in thickness eighty-seven feet, in height three hundred and fifty feet, and in compass four hundred and eighty furlongs, or sixty-four miles. In the whole compass of the walls there were one hundred gates, that is twenty-five on each of the four sides, all of solid brass. Between every two of these gates, at proper distances, were three towers. From the twenty-five gates on each side of the square, there was a straight street extending to the corresponding gate in the opposite wall, whence by the outer section the city was divided into six hundred and sixty-seven squares, each of four furlongs and a half, or two miles and a quarter in compass. A branch of the Euphrates divided the city into two, running through the midst of it from North to South; over which, in the very middle of the city, was a bridge; at each end of this bridge were two palaces; the old palace on the outside, the new one on the west side of the river, the former of which took up four of the squares above mentioned, the latter joined the temple of Bacchus, which stood near to the old palace, took up another of the

Translation of the Scriptures.

the Old Testament from the Hebrew was faithfully given, and thereby rendered clear and intelligible to

same squares; the images, or idols, of massy gold, &c. according to Diodorus, amounted to five thousand talents of gold, estimated at upwards of twenty millions sterling.

Cyrus, despairing of being able to take such a city by storm, caused a line of circumvallation to be drawn quite round it, with a large and deep ditch, reckoning that if all communication with the country was cut off, the besieged would be obliged to surrender through famine; but the besieged insulted him from the ramparts, and looked upon all the trouble he gave himself as so much unprofitable labour. After Cyrus had spent two whole years before Babylon, without making progress in the siege, he at last thought of the following stratagem, which put him into possession of it. He was informed that a great annual solemnity was to be held at Babylon, and that the inhabitants were accustomed to spend the whole night in drinking and debauchery. This he therefore thought a proper time for surprising them, and accordingly sent a strong detachment to the head of the canal leading to the great lake, with orders at a certain time to break down the great bank which was between the lake and the canal, and to turn the whole current into the lake. At the same time he appointed one body of troops at the place where the river entered the city, and another where it came in at, ordering them to march in by the bed of the river, as soon as they should find it fordable. Towards the evening, he opened the trenches of the river on both sides above the city, that the water might discharge itself into them; by which means, and the breaking down of the great dam, the river was soon drained. Then the two above-mentioned bodies of troops, according to their orders, entered the channel, and finding the gates all open by reason of the disorders of that perilous night, they penetrated into the very heart of the city without opposition, and meeting according to agreement at the palace, surprised the guards. Those who were in the palace opening the gates to know the cause of this confusion, the Persians rushed in, took the palace, and killed the King, who came out to meet them sword in hand. Thus an end was put to the Babylonian empire, and Cyrus took possession of Babylon for one called in Scripture Darius, the uncle, most probably, of Cyaxares second uncle to Cyrus.

(See Rollin's Ancient History, and Harmer's Observations.)

“ I will sweep it with the besoms of destruction,” &c. The following account of the ruined state of Babylon, by a respectable traveller, will shew how exactly the predictions of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, have been accomplished :

Glorious Result.

such a vast number of people. The Jews, dispersed over Asia into Europe and Africa, considerably en-

“The village of Elugo,” says he, “is now situate where heretofore Babylon of Chaldea stood. The harbour where people go on shore in order to proceed to Bagdad, is a quarter of a league distant from it. The soil is so dry and barren, that they cannot till it, and so naked, that I could never have believed that this powerful city, once the most stately and renowned in the world, and situated in the fruitful country of Shinar, could have stood there, had I not seen, by the situation of the place, by many antiquities of great beauty, which are to be seen round about, and especially by the old bridge over the Euphrates, whereof some piles and arches of incredible strength are still remaining, that it certainly did stand there. The whole front of the village Elugo, is the hill upon which the castle stood, and the ruins of its fortifications are still visible. Behind, and some little way beyond, is the Tower of Babylon, which is half a league in diameter, but so ruinous, so low, and so full of venomous creatures, which lodge in the holes they make in the rubbish, that no one durst approach nearer to it than within half a league, except two months in the winter, when these animals never stir out of their holes.

By the conquest of Babylon, and the consequent junction of other states and dependencies, Persia, the second monarchy, became like Babylon, overgrown and unwieldy, bore in its inflated bulk, also, the seeds of its dissolution, and ‘Macedonia’s madman,’ Alexander, falsely called the Great, was the instrument to lay her prostrate.

A remarkable, but hitherto obscure people, were now rising to notice in the West, to form the fourth monarchy, the Roman Empire, which by cautious and crafty politics, were acquiring such accession of strength, as made them dangerous neighbours.--- At length, quitting the shores of Italy, they penetrated to the coasts of Carthage and Egypt, and reached Asia, in all which countries their policy and arms were increasingly successful, until the whole known world was brought under their dominion, and the successive course of events pressed rapidly to the period, when, during a general anxiety and expectation of some great event, amidst a universal peace, HE was introduced who is emphatically called “*The DESIRE of all nations*, the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords,” and whose kingdom of peace must spread from sea to sea, and from shore to shore, and HE *shall reign for ever and ever*.

These few brief sketches and hints are given with the hope of being instrumental in exciting the reader to search into this inva-

Reflection.—Interesting Turk.

lightened the heathen philosophers in the unity and knowledge of the true God.

In this wonderful manner did a gracious God prepare the way for the preaching of the Gospel, which was then approaching. The contents of the Old Testament Scriptures, would naturally lead men to look for its completion in the New Testament; surely “the wrath of man shall serve him, and the remainder of it he will restrain.” All things shall work for HIS glory.

Among our visitors, we could number a variety of different nations, who appeared emulous of our friendship, and seen united, formed a pleasing assemblage. Among the Turks was an officer of distinction, who became more stationary and familiar, frequently entering into interesting conversations; he displayed an unusual openness and freedom, and expressed much respect for his English friends; his abilities, natural and acquired, appeared far beyond the ordinary attainments of the Turks, who in general affect to despise these things.

Our friend's conversation grew increasingly interesting; besides giving us an historical relation of important epochs and events, he entered more particularly on the subject of religion, and the fulfilment of prophecy, and spoke with a depth, clearness and precision, that surprised those of his hearers who were acquainted with the theory (for alas! little was known of its vital power) of these most impor-

luable book, the Bible, for the “true riches,” the more of which he finds, the more will his soul expand, and his affections be purified. And in proportion as he is thus led by the Author of the Sacred Volume, to search, discover, embrace and enjoy those truths “*which are able to make us wise unto salvation through faith which is in CHRIST JESUS;*” all other writings, unless drawn from these, and pointing to the great object of faith, will be disregarded. See the last chapter of St. Peter.

Expanded Mind.—Hint to Missionary Societies.

tant subjects : but many of his judicious observations have escaped the memory of the writer.

He expressed his veneration for the Bible, which he considered the only written book of God, and alone pointing out the way to attain lasting happiness ; his suspicions of the truth of the Mahomedan religion, that his mind was impressed with the prospect of its fall, and the necessity of his countrymen being taught the true religion ; a desire to be instructed more fully on the subject, and a wish for the more general instruction of his countrymen, many of the most intelligent of which were of similar sentiments.

At the time these conversations took place, scarcely one of his hearers paid more than common attention to them, and the author with shame must include himself in this number ; but there was something so serious and extraordinary in his manner of delivering his sentiments, as tended to fix the attention even of his too careless company.

On a more mature consideration of these very interesting conversations, the author feels a hope that these reflecting Turks, and others, will soon hail that instruction so many of them desire, by the diffusion of the Christian religion in these benighted countries, which will show them the fulfilment of many prophecies in past ages, which ensures the completion of all that are yet unfulfilled, and unanswerably proves that the reign of the Messiah will take place over all the world.

The writer would humbly submit these hints to the consideration of Missionary Societies, who are engaged in the God-like plan of diffusing light and happiness throughout the dark and miserable abodes of cruelty.

On Great Britain, especially, the inhabitants of these once favoured countries appear to have pecu-

Important Hint.—Athens.

liar claims.* Their connections by commerce, &c. open channels of communication.

Their desire for the Bible (many mutilated parts of which are to be found in their Alcoran,) points out the desirableness of giving them a translation of its genuine contents in the Turkish language;† also their doubts of the truth of many parts of their Alcoran, and that desire, so prevalent in many of them, to attain the true knowledge of God.

Among many other incitements which might be enumerated, and which the better judgment of those engaged in missions may easily discover, is, that many may seem to say, loudly to say, as the man of Macedonia, to that hero of the Gospel, Paul, "Come over and help us."

This country being originally the birth-place of those Greeks who first colonized the Grecian islands, and whose return has been noticed, it partook of all the advantages of its learning, and fell into all its most senseless idolatry.

Such was its fame for learning, that Athens was called the university of the whole world, and even royal personages resorted to Greece for education, from all parts of the known world; and the common rudiments of science, gained here, would give its possessor a decided superiority in most civilized countries then existing.

But amidst all this boasted erudition and refine-

* May Great Britain return the unspeakable blessing of the Gospel to these once highly favoured countries, from whence it proceeded to her, when in a state of ignorance, superstition, idolatry and barbarism.

† Every reflecting and intelligent mind must admire the rise and progress of that rapidly extending Institution, the British and Foreign Bible Society, which under the divine blessing, must, in conjunction with similar societies, proclaim its soul transporting contents to the utmost bounds of the globe, and the utmost wants of man.

Insufficiency of the Light of Nature.

ment; amidst all this meridian glory and zenith of power; in all these acquisitions of arts and sciences, the most important of all the sciences, theology, was covered with gross superstition, and enveloped in midnight darkness. Let us seriously consider, for a few moments, their deplorable ignorance with respect to the only true and lasting wisdom—the knowledge and worship of Jehovah.

The most enlightened, civilized, and wisest nations of antiquity, the Chaldeans, Egyptians, Phœnicians, Greeks, and Romans, were the most ignorant and blind, and retained and cherished the most stupid, coarse, and absurd ideas respecting it. A short deduction will bring this to a demonstration. Greece was so dreadfully sunk in this depravity, that Athens called the soul and sun of it, was the most deeply involved in idolatry; they multiplied their gods on every occasion; hence the Apostle charged it with being “wholly given to idolatry.” This character is demonstrated both by sacred and profane history.

It would pain a serious mind to enumerate the ceremonies of the false gods of the Greeks, and other refined nations of antiquity.

The gravest of their philosophers forbids drinking to excess, if it was not in the feasts of Bacchus, and to the honour of that god. Another severely lashes all unseemly images, except those of the gods, who chose to be honoured by such indecencies.

Greece, with all her pretensions to superior politeness and wisdom, had received abominable mysteries.

Solon, the greatest legislator of Athens, erected a temple for purposes of licentiousness, and conjugal love had not one temple in the whole country; yet they detested adultery in men and women, and were severe to punish it; the conjugal tie was sacred

Necessity of Divine Revelation.

among them. But when they applied themselves to religion, they appeared possessed of a strange spirit.*

Nor did the Roman gravity treat religion more seriously, seeing it consecrated to the honour of the gods, the impurities of the theatre, and the bloody spectacles of the gladiators; that is, whatever can be imagined most corrupt and barbarous.

It is true, some of the best of their philosophers had at last confessed that there was another God, than those the vulgar worshipped, but they durst not avow it; on the contrary, Socrates delivered it as a maxim, that every one ought to follow the religion of his country, and at his last accusation before the Areopagus, maintained and asserted, "that he worshipped the gods of his country, and that he sacrificed in private and public, upon the allowed altars, and according to the rites and customs of the city. After this confession, reported by two of his ablest scholars,† there can be no doubt on this head. He was an idolater, and had not by his great ability in rea-

* Indeed, it is evident, from the whole tenor of ancient history, that the most inquisitive of their philosophers were frequently more bewildered in respect of essential knowledge than the illiterate. The Greeks were probably the most learned of all the heathen nations, and Athens contained the wisest men in all Greece; yet, what unworthy, inconclusive, unsatisfactory absurd ideas, did they form of the Almighty; the relation they held in the scale of being, and the worship due to God. Wearied at length in the pursuit, and impressed with the necessity of better information, on the most important of all subjects, many of the wisest and best, at an early period, concluded that wisdom must come from heaven to instruct them in true knowledge. This sentiment extended itself as time advanced, so that by the period Rome had attained the summit of power, the necessity of an heavenly messenger was so prevalent among mankind, that a general expectation, as well as wish of his appearing was excited. And who could this refer to but to the Messiah, who is peculiarly called, **THE DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS.**

† Opinion of Plato and Xenophon.

soning, delivered himself from the practice of the superstition of his country.

Plato, his disciple, who saw Greece, and all the countries of the known world, filled with an absurd and scandalous worship, does, nevertheless, lay it down as the foundation of his republic, "that men are never to make any change in the religion they find established, and that they must have lost all common sense, so much as to think of it."

How inconsistent, inconclusive, absurd, and vain, were their opinions and sentiments on this most important of all subjects, for want of the determinate and conclusive evidence of the steady, consoling and animating light of divine revelation.

Those great and comparatively enlightened men, who said so many excellent things of the divine nature, did not dare to oppose the public error.

When Socrates, called the prince of philosophers, was brought before the Aeropagus, the most incorrupt, sacred, and venerable tribunal in Greece, and accused of denying the gods, whom the public adored, he vindicated himself from it, as from a crime, and after being unjustly condemned to death, his last words to his friend were, a request for him to offer a cock to Esculapius. And Plato, speaking of the God who formed the universe, says, that "it is hard to find him, and that it is forbidden to declare him to the people." He protests that he never speaks of him but enigmatically, for fear of exposing so great a truth to ridicule.*

But in contemplating the characters of such eminent and worthy men as Socrates, Plato, Pythagoras, Solon, Aristides, Epictetus, Seneca, Thales, Zeno, Antinonous, &c. &c. and viewing them frequently

* See Bossuet's Universal History, and especially Gregory's Essays, a recent and highly interesting publication.

Reflection.

opposing, with the light they had, the idolatry of their countrymen, and the heathen world at large, and evidencing by their conduct the superiority of their views, the benevolent Christian feels drawn to them in affection.

In what an abyss of error was mankind plunged, when it could not bear the idea of the true God.

Athens, the most polite and most learned city in the world, whose superstitions and idolatries were so clearly developed, and irresistibly confuted by St. Paul, in his visit,* took for Atheists those who spoke of intellectual things; and this was one of the reasons for which Socrates was condemned. If some philosophers presumed to teach that statues were not gods, as the vulgar apprehended, they found themselves obliged to recant this doctrine; and even after that, they were banished as profane persons. The whole earth was possessed with the same error.

The Great God, the Creator and Governor of the world, had neither temple, nor worship, but in Jerusalem.

What a mercy that Judea was acquainted with his holy name, and knew that to divide religion, by admitting other gods, was to destroy it.

“ They, and they only, amongst all mankind,
Received the transcript of the eternal mind;
Were trusted with his own engraven laws,
And constituted guardians of his cause;
Theirs were the prophets, theirs the priestly call,
And theirs by birth the Saviour of us all.

COWPER.

* Acts, chap. xvli.

CHAP. XVI.

Extraordinary Character—Wonderful Distinction, and Marvellous Preservation of the Jews, with their Punishments, illustrated by their Separation, and the Destruction of their City and Temple—Reflections.

THE preservation of the Jews and the Sacred Scriptures, claim the serious attention, and deepest gratitude, from every intelligent being in the world; and call on us to contemplate and adore the wonderful providence of Almighty God, in raising up, and preserving that nation, as a distinct and peculiar people, giving them the sacred canon of the Old Testament, and making them thereby a barrier against idolatry, and the depositories of those writings, which, as well as the revolutions in their nation, all clearly pointed to the Messiah.

The distinction of character which still marks the Jews, dispersed, or however situated, the fulfilment of prophecies already accomplished, and still to be accomplished, in their return to the Messiah, “when God will remember his mercy and his truth towards the house of Israel, and all the ends of the world shall see the salvation of God,” command attention and affection from Christians, towards this people, by whose instrumentality the inestimable records of Scripture have been preserved, and will be transmitted to future generations.

And when we view this despised, and too often persecuted people, at this moment scattered over the globe,—when we consider that of three millions, which according to the present calculation is their number, one million remain in the Turkish dominions, where they so nearly approximate the ancient scene

of their prosperity, the vast empire of the East—and that they inhabit countries never yet fully explored by Europeans, how forcibly does the idea of the Jews, being the heralds of the Messiah, to many countries, strike the mind.

This extraordinary people have been kept wonderfully distinct from all other nations of the globe, in defiance of all their individual and united exertions to confound them. The Assyrians, the Grecians, and the Romans, successively conquered them by their arms; but neither they, nor all their other conquerors and oppressors, could incorporate them with their people.

These empires rose and fell, one after the other, while the Jews alone continued. What a wonderful act of Divine Providence is it, that the vanquished should, for so many ages, survive the victors, and the former spread over all the world, while the latter are no more known.

The northern nations have poured forth in swarms into the southern parts of Europe, but where are they now?—Who can distinguish the Britons, the Romans, the Saxons, the Danes, or the Normans, in England?—Or the Gauls, the Romans, and the Franks, in France. In Spain, who can distinguish between the first Spaniards, and the Goths and Moors, who conquered it?—They are all blended and lost, and similar observations might be made on all other nations. Much more might it have been expected, that the sufferings of the Jews, like fire, would have melted them down into the common mass of human nature, with the different nations among whom they dwelt; to name one instance only, the destruction of Jerusalem, when upwards of a million appear to have perished; but they still are distinct; they still are very numerous; they still exhibit, in every individual, the legible marks of Divine Power; so that whosoever sees the face of a Jew, sees a stand-

Anticipation. — Warning to Infidels.

ing miracle, a living argument for the truth of Christianity, whose divine author foretold their sufferings, dispersion, and recovery. Luke xxi. 24; as did also the apostle Paul, Romans xi. and Moses, fifteen hundred years before the coming of the Messiah; Lev. xxvi.—Deut. xxviii. Not only the mere event, but the particular circumstances, their captivity, their dispersion, the awful destruction of their temple and city; * the oppressions, persecutions, contempt, and hatred of the world; the miseries accompanying their very name, and the cause of these, the rejection of the Messiah by unbelief; were all foretold, and blessed be God, their restoration is also predicted. How strong a presumptive proof does their separate state furnish, of their promised restoration, and how worthy of admiration is it, that they carry with them, wherever they go, the book of Moses and the prophets; hereby proving to a demonstration, that their sufferings as a separate people, predicted in these very books, are for rejecting the Saviour, who is therein so clearly described as the Messiah; they hereby now still continue, in some degree, to be heralds of salvation; and how gloriously will this be the case, when they shall be converted to Christianity, and become instrumental in conveying its glad tidings over the globe; when the Jew and the Gentile shall take sweet counsel together, and go to the house of God as friends; “When the kingdoms of this world, shall become the kingdoms of our God, and his Christ.”

Infidels, as well as Jews, would do well to consider these facts, and they are called upon to consider them at their peril, before that awful scripture is verified—
“Behold ye despisers, and wonder and perish.”

It is impossible that any man should duly consider these memorable events, without some powerful conviction of the truth of Divine Revelation. Can any

* See this memorable event described by Josephus.

Reflection.

stronger proof be given of Divine Revelation, than the spirit of prophecy?—And can there be a stronger proof given of the spirit of prophecy, than the punishments and preservation of the Jews! *—To instance the awful and memorable event, the destruction of Jerusalem only, will illustrate this in a forcible manner.

At the time Christ pronounced these prophecies, Jerusalem was in profound peace, and the Roman governor had ample force to keep the people in obedience; and could human prudence foresee that the city, as well as the country, would revolt against the Romans?—Could human prudence foresee, “famines, and pestilence, and earthquakes, in divers places?”—Could human prudence foresee the speedy propagation of the Gospel, so contrary to all human probability?—Could any or all the powers of human calculation, so much as conjecture the sudden and utter destruction of Jerusalem, with all the wonderful and particular events attending and succeeding it?—It was a received maxim among the Romans, not absolutely to ruin any of their provinces, much less might it have been expected under Titus, who used every effort to save the Temple, but in vain.

My plan will not admit of entering more fully into detail, of the marvellous escape and preservation of every Christian in Jerusalem, at the siege, &c. but whoever will enter into the consideration of these important events, unfolding the predictions of Him, who said to the roaring billows, “Peace, be still,”

* Amid the strange and momentous revolutions within the last thirty years, an awakened attention has been excited for the Jews also, to their everlasting concerns, and various laudable attempts have terminated in an institution, formed in London, entitled the London Society. An increasing interest it appears is now (April, 1819) also excited in the vast Empire of Russia and other parts of the Continent, for the best, the everlasting interests of this peculiarly interesting people. May the sacred flame increase!

Irresistible Proof of the Truth

will find increasing reason to say, this is the finger of God. These exhibit irresistible proofs of the truth of Christianity.

“ Thus fell the best instructed in her day,
 And the most favor'd lands, look where we may ;
 Philosophy indeed on Grecian eyes
 Had pour'd the day, and cleared the Roman skies.
 In other climes perhaps creative art,
 With power surpassing theirs, performed her part,
 Might give more life to marble, or might fill
 The glowing tablets with a juster skill,
 Might shine in fable, and grace idle themes,
 With all the embroidery of poetic dreams ;
 'Twas theirs alone to dive into the plan,
 That truth and mercy had revealed to man :
 And while the world beside that plan unknown,
 Deified useless wood, or senseless stone,
 They breathed in faith their heaven-directed prayers,
 And the true God, the God of truth, was theirs.
 Their glory faded, and their race dispersed.
 The last of nations now, though once the first.
 They warn and teach, the proudest would they learn,
 Keep wisdom, or meet vengeance in your turn ;
 If we escaped not, if heaven spared not us,
 Peeled, scattered, and exterminated thus ;
 If vice receive her retribution due,
 When we are visited, what hope for you ?
 When God arises with an awful frown,
 To punish lust, or pluck presumption down ;
 When gifts perverted, or not duly prized,
 Pleasure o'er-valued, and his grace despised ;
 Provoke the vengeance of his righteous hand
 To pour down wrath upon a thankless land ;
 He will be found impartially severe,
 Too just to wink, or speak the guilty clear :
 Oh ! Israel of all nations most undone,
 Thy diadem displaced, and sceptre gone,
 Thy temple, once thy glory, fallen and razed,
 And thou a worshipper, even where thou mayst ;
 Thy services once only without spot.
 Mere shadows now, their ancient pomp forgot ;
 Thy Levites, once a consecrated host,
 No longer Levites, and their lineage lost,
 And thou thyself o'er every country sown,
 With none on earth that thou canst call thy own :

of Christianity — Final Restoration of the Jews.

Cry aloud, thou that sittest in the dust,
 Cry to the proud, the cruel and unjust;
 Knock at the gate of nations, rouse their fears,
 Say wrath is coming, and the storm appears,
 But raise the shrillest cry in British ears."

COWPER.

The present increasing anxiety and zeal among Christians, both on the Continent of Europe, Britain, and the East, will rejoice the heart of every Christian, and, under the divine blessing, the continual prayer, followed by corresponding exertions, must succeed for the accomplishment of promises and prophecies: "and the Redeemer shall arise out of Sion, and turn away ungodliness from Jacob, and the children of Israel, after having been many days without an ephod and without a priest, shall return to the Lord their God, and to David their King in the latter days."

CHAP. XVII.

*Passage to Egypt—Storm—View of the Coast—
 Critical Situation of the Writer—Deliverance—
 —Vestiges of Antiquity—Visit the Vicinity of
 Alexandria—Pompey's Pillar—Site of Pharos,
 &c.—History of Alexandria—Description of the
 Inhabitants—Utility of the Camel, &c.—Religion
 —Punctuality in Devotion—Government.*

HAVING replenished our stock of water, and procured a good supply of vegetables and fruit, which the inhabitants in general were forward to assist us in getting on board, late in February 1801, we weighed anchor and stood into the Levant,* with a

* The launch from the vast Bay of Marmora into a sea surrounded with countries so interesting in history, classical and sacred, is eminently calculated to call forth an assemblage of ideas, forming an association at once pleasing, gloomy, delightful, and animating.

Visit Egypt.

large fleet in company, reluctantly I perceived for a still more remote destination. For a short time we were favored with moderate weather, after which a fresh gale and storm obliged us to lower the towering sails, and expose the fleet to danger. We continued much dispersed for two days, when it moderated, and the fleet continued its course to the southward, until the beautiful evening of the first of March, when the Castle of Alexandria was discovered, bearing S. E. about four or five leagues; and at eight the next morning, we anchored in the spacious Bay of Aboukir: during this short passage, we lost several of our men, by a dangerous fever, and with sympathy committed their bodies to the deep.*

A comprehensive view of the coast of celebrated Egypt could not fail forcibly to recall its ancient history to remembrance. Soon after our anchoring we experienced tempestuous weather, with a ground swell, which continued for several days, and prevented any debarkation of troops: as soon as the gale permitted, the vessels of easy draught of water were ordered near the beach, to cover the landing, and having troops in readiness, on the seventh it first commenced, and the others followed without interruption.

I was ordered on this disembarkation, and my first visit to these interesting coasts, was a very perilous one indeed: we had to approach the shore, in the

* The minds of Seamen are struck with peculiar solemnity at the death and funeral of a messmate. What an important character on board is a pious chaplain, and how dreadfully dangerous to the morals of the Crew is a contrary character. How often (with shame he confesses it) has the writer watched the words and actions of the Chaplain, and how often, alas! has he found what he then thought would vindicate his own irregular conduct, and encourage that levity, dissipation, folly and sin, so congenial to the natural depravity of the human heart. O! that such would attend to the solemn and awful warnings and denunciations contained in the Bible, especially in the 33d and 34th chapters Ezekiel, 10th chapter Leviticus and 2d, 3d, and 4th chapters of Samuel.

Perilous Situation. — Providential Deliverance.

face of several batteries, and at length reached the beach amidst volleys of shot. Just as the last of the troops had stepped, or jumped out of the boat, and were forming, many of them ankle deep in the water, a musket ball passed through my hat, penetrated the pericranium, grazed the bone, and left me instantly senseless in the boat; on the return of recollection, I felt my neck, shoulders, and back, bathed in blood, the vessels still bleeding profusely, and so helpless that every effort, even to seat myself, was unavailing. The scene of confusion with which we were surrounded, was unfriendly to attention from my comrades in danger; and it was a considerable time before I could get conveyed to medical assistance; on getting alongside the nearest of several vessels, who were placed on purpose to receive the wounded, and cover the landing, we were severely disappointed: for the surgeon was surrounded with so many cases, claiming instant relief, that they were under the painful necessity of refusing admission to any more. I perhaps felt the least at this answer, being by this time nearly exhausted from the continual loss of blood. On reaching the next vessel, I was hoisted in, and, after a short delay, was dressed by the surgeon, who took up the vessels, and said he hoped it was not a fracture. It was judged dangerous, in my present situation, to remove me to our own ship, which lay at the distance of several miles, and the surgeon kindly had me laid on his own bed. A state of repose was refreshing and comfortable indeed, and just when inclining to sleep, the signal was made for the ship instantly to get under way, and proceed; in consequence I was obliged to be reluctantly taken from my generous host, borne into the boat by a grating or hatch, and being at a distance, reached her almost in a state of insensibility. I here received kind attention; the paroxisms of fever, which suc-

Merciful Recovery.—Reflection.

ceeded were mild, and in a month I was so astonishingly recovered, as to be declared out of danger.

Thus did a miracle of mercy preserve and restore, and at length bring me, I trust, to review and consider this, and ten thousand other wonderful interpositions and blessings of Divine Providence, poured down even in the very moment that my depraved heart was engaged in ingratitude and rebellion against the Almighty, gracious Giver.*

After sailing several miles in a spacious bason, we landed on a fine beach in the vicinity of a considerable market, whose motley group, and various and abundant supplies, instantly excited our attention.

It was probably the circle of an acre, inclosed by means of posts, with a rope leading from each all round; within and without, were numbers of the natives, principally Arabians, who poured forth their stores, and seemed very emulous to exchange them for the silver and gold of their English friends.

We passed through this bustle, and proceeded to view some of the ruins of ancient Alexandria. From the summit of the hill, near the market, I could perceive part of this once celebrated city, whose ancient limits, by the baths, statues, &c. around us, and other vestiges recently discovered, probably extended beyond the spot on which I was then situated.

* When the disposition to reflection, admiration, and gratitude is communicated, how is the soul lost in adoration at the tender mercy and forbearance of an omnipotent and infinitely compassionate Saviour, who, while rebellious and ungrateful man, during the days of his unregeneracy, is seeking death in the error of his ways, and swiftly pressing to the precipice of destruction and misery, is stretching forth his almighty arm for defence in this peril, rescuing from that extremity of danger, going before, or preventing with unsolicited blessings, and loading with benefits. Faith is given, and necessarily working by love, purifies the heart, overcometh the world, and animates the Christian to run the way of God's commandments, pressing to enjoy his Saviour's uninterrupted presence, which is heaven.

Pompey's Pillar rises majestically from the ruins of its ancient greatness, and the present building, near the site of the ancient Pharos, points out the place where the relics of that once stately and useful edifice, esteemed one of the wonders of the world, lies buried, and its once spacious and well-filled harbours now comparatively choaked up and forsaken; so many remains of fallen greatness, striking on the mind, fixed attention, and excited emotions of commiseration.

I was in the midst of ruins, identified with ancient Alexandria or its suburbs. Urns, statues, and subterraneous avenues, with pieces of granite, &c. proved that they were no common relics. I was gratified with a view of a piece of stone, containing an inscription of nearly two thousand years date, recording events in the time of Pompey and Cæsar.

The ruins of a magnificent building excited considerable interest, and gratified curiosity by the ingenuity of its structure, but called forth commiseration at the recollection of its history: the author was informed it was a celebrated library, in which appear to have been deposited precious remains of ancient learning, that fell among the desolations of those Saracens, who in the seventh century made war upon literature as well as nations. The connection of the cement with the bricks, of which it appears to have been principally built, is to a modern eye surprising, it has so insinuated itself into the pores, as to form one substance; and a forcible separation would probably destroy both; this stands a monument of time and desolating invaders.

The history of Alexandria itself, would supply materials for several volumes. I must confine myself to a few particulars; it is situated without that fertile part of Egypt called the Delta, surrounded with sand and water: its population consists of 'Turks, Greeks,

Inhabitants of Egypt.

Jews, Arabs, &c. who enjoy toleration; it is now of small extent, but has still considerable commerce, which its harbour and situation command. It was founded by Alexander the Great, soon after the overthrow of Tyre; he considered the value of Egypt, as connected with this port, and appreciating the advantages of commerce, exerted himself to raise it to extraordinary importance. It was the mart for all the trade of the Indies, and its capacious harbours contained several hundred sail of shipping at one time; and even after Rome had attained to sovereign power, and had reduced Egypt to its dominion, it was long reckoned the second city in the world.

Its present condition is a contrast to its ancient splendour and prosperity; the harbours are much injured. The inhabitants are about eight thousand, who are mostly attracted by commerce. Alexandria contains a mixture of various nations, many of whom literally dwell amid the ruins of its ancient magnificence.

The present inhabitants throughout these extensive coasts, are of various sorts, whose manners and customs are as various. Moors, Arabians, wild and civilized, are numerous. The Coptes boast of their descent from the ancient Egyptians, whose ancestors were once Christians; they still profess Christianity, and retain a semblance of its excellent system, much enveloped in superstition; they deem themselves of the Greek Church, but frequently embrace Mahometan customs. These Coptes are generally the most learned of all the inhabitants of this country.

The Jews found here, as in all other parts of the world, are so many living testimonies to the truth of Christianity, and will so continue, till the God who has dispersed them among all nations, shall graciously call them into the fold of our common Saviour.

The Turks, to whom is committed a principal part

Striking History of the Arabians.

of the government, here display their native indolence, and are in general arbitrary and ignorant; though some of them seem to partake of that activity and enterprize, visible in many of the native inhabitants, and display a promptness and ingenuity in commerce the more remarkable, because unexpected; nor are they that dull senseless people which Europeans generally suppose; indeed when their abilities are well directed, they excite pleasing surprise.

The Arabians are partly wild, and partly civilized, the former have no fixed habitation. The latter living where towns and villages are built, often joining the inhabitants, become more local than their brethren of the inland parts.

The camel and dromedary are their beasts of burden, and are wonderfully adapted to the country; carrying immense burdens, and subsisting with a very small quantity of water, they are peculiarly formed for the sultry and extensive deserts, where little water is to be obtained.

The Arabians are certainly descended from Ishmael, Abraham's son, by Hagar, and verify to this day, that prophecy respecting him and his posterity, recorded in the 16th chapter of Genesis, and 12th verse. "He will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him." It would lead me beyond my limits to enter into their full history, but a short sketch only will set this in a striking view.

Shiskak, the Egyptian conqueror, was obliged to protect his kingdom from their depredations, by a deep ditch and line of defence. About A.M. 3200, the Gadites and Reubenites gave the Ishmaelites a terrible defeat, and seized on their territory and wealth. About 800 years after, the Assyrians ravaged their country. About A.M. 3420, Nebuchadnezzar, the Chaldean, ravaged the northern parts of Arabia,

put multitudes of them to the sword, burnt their cities, and carried off their wealth for a prey.

Provoked by their contempt of himself, or by the depredations on his subjects, Alexander the Great in vain resolved to extirpate them. Antigonus, his mighty general, who attempted to succeed him; Pompey the victorious Roman commander, and the emperors Augustus, Trajan and Severus, attempted to reduce or destroy them in vain. Providence always, and sometimes miraculously, maintained the independency of these wild descendants of Abraham by Hagar.

What is called the established religion of the Egyptians, is Mahometanism, and its professors are very attentive to their devotions; they rise early, and attend public worship at sun rise, public and private during the day, and again in the evening, or at dusk.

The government is not so arbitrary and oppressive as in many other parts, more immediately under the Turkish control; this may arise from their distance from the seat of government, and from their struggles for independence, a memorable instance of which happened recently.

CHAP. XVIII.

Tempest—Winds of the Desert—Reviving Breezes—Reflections—Nile—Mildness of the Winter—Overflowing of the Nile.

ON the fourth of April we were overtaken with a heavy gale from the sea. It began with fresh breezes and cloudy weather, soon increased to fresh gales and squally, with rain and lightning from almost every part of the horizon, with a ground swell. We

Tempest. — Supplies.

struck our masts, and prepared to receive it. In the course of twenty-four hours it increased to such a degree, that the bowsprit of our vessel pitched under the waves, and we were necessitated to cut away our best and largest boat from the stern, to ease the dreadful plunges of the ship; this caused an anxiety to secure the other boat, which was still under the stern, for which purpose several seamen came forward, and offered their services to perform the most difficult and dangerous part of the business, that of going over the stern and hooking her on, in order for hoisting up; five men descended for this purpose, got safely into the boats, gained the tackles, and made every exertion for a successful issue; but alas! while one hook only had taken, the ship gave several dreadful plunges, lifted the boat by one end only, filled her with water, and shook and washed the men out. With anxious eyes we beheld them struggling with the mighty waves, but by throwing buoyant things, and using other exertions, we providentially rescued three out of the five from a watery grave. The next morning displayed a distant scene of wrecks of boats, and corpses, drifted on the beach. The wind had now ceased, and a general gloom and sympathy pervaded the ship's company at the loss of their comrades, and the sharers in a long series of toils and dangers.

We now received considerable supplies of poultry, mutton, eggs, fine fruits, and fish, and were refreshed with reviving sea breezes, which prevail on this coast; these, with a comprehensive view from Aboukir Castle to the mouth of the Nile, including the landscape near Rosetta, gratified the eye, and invigorated the body. The view of the vicinity of Rosetta is peculiarly grateful, after the eye has been fatigued, and the animal spirits become languid, in traversing the extensive hot sands adjoining.

Afflicting Contrast.

The setting sun in this country far excels in seeming brilliancy and softness, similar appearances in more northern climes. The majestic appearance of its orb, the splendour and peculiar softness of its rays, the variegated and vivid colours of the surrounding clouds, with the remarkable reflection on the glassy wave, and the agreeable serenity of the atmosphere, conspire to form a sublime and delightful prospect.

This pleasant weather, and these beautiful appearances continued, with a very short intermission, till the 22nd of May, when we were surrounded with a gloomy contrast indeed.

It began with variable winds, inclinable to calms, attended with an uncomfortable warmth; at length the wind fixed itself in the S. E. in the direction of the desert, and we soon felt a sultry breeze, which conveyed innumerable insects into every crevice, and became so troublesome on deck, that we were glad to retreat below, but in vain, for wherever the air reached, there they teemed innumerable, and our dinner was presently covered with them: such was the death-like stillness, heat and gloom, which pervaded the atmosphere, that meat was hardly desirable; in short, the distressing gloom, swarming of insects, and depression of animal spirits, were soon followed by a variety of alarming symptoms, which many considered as the forerunner of the plague, and reports were quickly circulated, that several ships in the bay and near us, had already been visited by that dreadful disease, that many were taken ill, and that some had actually suddenly died of it. We now began to consider these gloomy symptoms as presages of that pestilential fever, which, if suffered to prevail, would complete the catastrophe, and could have wished a storm to clear the loaded atmosphere, and disperse the destroying evils.

But oh! the tender compassion of our merciful

Providential Change—Reflection.

God, even to such rebellious ungrateful creatures. On a sudden the wind changed and arose, the sun burst through the thick gloom, the increasing sea-breezes chased away the vapours, insects, and all the impending horrors which prevailed just before; the animal spirits felt the grateful change; the vital fluid flew with eager activity over its "world of wonders;" disease rapidly decreased; the plague was no longer feared, and every countenance bespoke the unexpected, wonderful, and grateful change. "Oh! that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness, and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men." Psalm cvii.

What a mercy is it that these pestilential winds are neither long nor frequent. During my stay, upwards of four months, they visited us but twice; at all other times we were daily cheered by refreshing sea-breezes which prevail all along this coast and country, and without which it would become insufferably hot.

The celebrated river Nile runs through Lower Egypt, dividing itself near Cairo; one chief branch runs to the N.E. and empties itself at Damietta, the ancient Pelusium; the other runs to the N.W. and falls into the sea at Rosetta; this latter branch we had much intercourse with during our stay, frequently receiving supplies of water and provisions.

Both sacred and profane history agree in describing the richness of its pastures, the number of cattle, and the immense quantities of corn produced in this country; their flocks and herds are even now remarkably fine, and grow in a very little time; their sheep in general have large and heavy tails. A proof of its ancient prolific soil may be variously seen in the interesting history of the ancient Israelites.

The fruits are excellent, various and abundant; melons, dates, plaintains, grapes, figs, &c. &c. are amply produced, and, together with abundance of

Nile; Anniversary of its Flood.

fish, and a little bread, form a plentiful meal to its temperate inhabitants at a very easy rate.

At the height of the flood, the whole champaign country is covered, and the towns and villages built on eminences, appear like so many islands, connected by causeways, and interspersed with trees. The inhabitants contemplate this rich sea with admiration and delight, and celebrate its annual visit, for they know by the height of the waters, the produce of the ensuing harvest. The ancient history of the Israelites* is much connected with Egypt, and peculiarly interesting. Villages and towns, which are most numerous near the banks of the Nile, have their canals and reservoirs, which are opened at proper seasons to let the water into the country. The countries overflowed by this wonderful river, are so extensive and low, that of all the waters which flow into Egypt, it is supposed that not a tenth part of them reach the sea.

Egypt has been long considered by the Ottoman government as a farm, and had they been equally solicitous to encourage its resources, as they are expert in drawing supplies, it would have yielded half as much again.

The Ottoman government would do well to consider this important subject, which so nearly concerns them, and adopt measures to encourage agriculture and every species of industry, by giving increasing security to property, and by banishing that wretched and narrow policy which cramps honest enterprize. This encouragement would not only improve the soil,

* Who from one family, wonderfully conducted there by Omnipotence, through the instrumentality of a persecuted brother, in the space of 215 years, increased to the amazing number of six hundred thousand, besides women and children. I would refer my reader to the perusal of these striking events, in the inimitable original itself, beginning at the interesting history of Joseph, in the 37th chapter of the book of Genesis.

but considerably tend to check the progress of those dreadful diseases, which so often desolate this celebrated country.

The ancients were in the dark respecting the source of the Nile, and according to their usual custom, rendered this subject more impenetrable by involving it in fables and other subtilties; but it is now no longer a matter of dispute; modern travellers, especially Mr. Bruce, having well ascertained its origin, describe it as rising from two springs which are at the foot of a great mountain in Abyssinia. Its inundations are owing to the great rains which fall in Ethiopia.*

CHAP XIX.

Farther Description of the Nile — Death of Dr. White — Reflections — History of Egypt — Necessity of a Divine Revelation.

THE Nile not only nourished the soil and purified the air, but by means of many curious and extensive canals, cut by the ancient Egyptians, cities and villages were united and defended, commerce was carried on and extended, the riches of the Indies flowed into Egypt, and from hence it was distributed to other parts of Africa, Europe, Asia, &c. &c.

* This interesting country, though so little explored and known by Europeans, presents a history full of important events. It stands marked as opposed to Egypt, Judea, and even Babylon; it is supposed that this was the country from whence issued forth one million of men, with the intention of overthrowing the Israelites in the reign of Asa, who strengthening himself in the Lord his God, uttered that memorable, short, but effectual prayer, "We have no might against this great company which are come out against us, but our eyes are up unto thee." Mahometans and Catholics have strove to introduce their various despotic and superstitious systems, but both have proved abortive.

Useful Arts and Sciences.—Moses.

The overflowing of the Nile led to several arts and sciences of great utility. To adjust the property of their lands, people were obliged to have recourse to measuring and surveys, and this first taught them geometry; and as their country was level, and the air generally serene and unclouded, they were some of the first that observed the courses of the planets.—Those observations led them to regulate the year from the course of the sun. It led also to natural philosophy, by which study they invented or improved the science of physic, which in those ages was easily comprehended; as soon as any sanative or medicinal herb was discovered, its success was registered and made public, that others might experience the same benefit; the physicians were obliged to follow fixed rules, which were the observations of old and experienced practitioners, who generally confined their practice to the cure of one disease only; and the flags of this wonderful river became, by the order of Divine Providence, a cradle to nurse the most eminent legislator, historian, and ruler, the world beheld, who was here preserved in the moment of danger, by the very daughter of the man who sought his life, and given by her to his own mother to nurse.— See the inimitable description of these events in the second chapter of the book of Exodus, which contains a most interesting history of the ancient Israelites.

The air and soil varies much in proportion to its proximity to the Delta and the coast, and in travelling the sands, which are frequently in hills, the entrance into the vales is as if going to the mouth of an oven, and when the sea-breezes fail, there is danger to be apprehended from this intense heat, increased by the hot sands. One of our seamen being near the banks of the Nile, wearied and heavy, thoughtlessly fell into a sleep, quite exposed to the powerful rays of a summer's sun, and was so struck that he was brought on board and soon after expired.

Affecting Death of Dr. White — Reflection.

At the dry and hot season diseases prevail. During the late events in Egypt, opportunities have been afforded, and men of science and benevolence have bent the whole force of their powers to investigate the nature, causes, and effects of the plague; their united efforts have reflected considerable light and information on this important subject.

I have here the painful task to relate the affecting death of Dr. White, whom the reader will remember at Asia Minor. This eminent physician and benevolent man, had found his mind much impressed with the destructive effects of the plague, and engaged in plans to arrest its progress, he formed the generous determination to attempt abating its virulence by the introduction of inoculation on his own person. While the plague raged with unusual malignity, he inoculated himself with matter taken from an infected person; the attempt failed; he made a second, which failed also; with extraordinary resolution and perseverance, he was inoculated a third time, which, alas! proved fatal a few days after the infection had taken effect: he fell a lamented sacrifice to a disinterested, generous, and extraordinary zeal, eminently calculated to excite admiration and regret, and to which the pages of human history can seldom find a parallel; which will not fail to remind the attentive reader of the Bible, of that infinitely greater instance of philanthropy which induced that Omnipotent Being, who spake the universe into existence, and upholds it by his power, to condescend to veil himself in humanity, live a suffering life, and expire by an agonizing and ignominious death, for the present and eternal salvation of his lost and rebellious creatures.

The loss of Dr. White for a time checked the prosecution of this interesting enquiry, but may we not hope his noble example will stimulate other gentlemen of the faculty, who, with equal ardour shall combine and direct their united and successful efforts to

Peculiar Description.—Early History of Egypt.

the investigation of this important subject, whose generous zeal, under the blessing of Divine Providence, shall tend to ameliorate the disease, stop its dreadful ravages, and soon give the inhabitants of these countries, who are most lamentably ignorant, and mankind at large, to anticipate the extermination of this malady with as much, or more confidence, than the inhabitants of Great Britain and other countries, now anticipate the extermination of the small-pox.

The traveller in these deserts may enter into the ideas of the ancient Oriental writers, when describing in lively metaphor, the perils, retreats, resources, and deliverances which are peculiar to these countries.

But above all, the man of serious reflection, who is conversant with the Scriptures, will enter with gratitude into the sublime descriptions peculiar to the Bible, which, while representing this world as a wilderness, exhibit the promises of God, and God himself, under the pleasing figures of springs of water in the parched desert, “the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, a hiding place from the storm, and a covert from the tempest, &c. &c.”

The limits of the writer’s plan preclude his entering largely on the interesting history of this country, he hopes however the following brief sketch may not be unacceptable:—Misraim, the son of Ham, not long after the dispersion from Babel, first formed Egypt into a kingdom, A.M. 1816; that monarchy continued in the line of Pharoah 1660 years and upwards, down to the conquest of Cambyzes.

The Egyptians were among the first nations who understood the art of government, which is to form and administer equal laws, and make the people happy. Several of their ancient monarchs appear to have governed by this maxim.

After Abraham, who was probably the first cultivator of astronomy, as well as champion against idolatry, they were among the earliest astronomers, na-

History of Egypt.

tural philosophers, geometricians and physicians, and were well acquainted with the use of letters.

Long before Greece was known as a nation, Egypt was the seat of the arts; we find a striking description of their prosperity in this respect, at an early period, by the encomium given to Moses in the Book of Genesis “that he was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.”

But notwithstanding Egypt was flourishing in the arts and sciences, some of which were of the greatest utility, although they were famous for the regularity and equity of their government; yea, though it was founded by a grandson of Noah, when every thing pointed out the newness of the world, and consequently every vestige of the former was eminently calculated to impress on the mind, that there is but one living and true God, who must be worshipped in spirit and in truth—Yet they were gross idolaters.

Besides the sun and moon, these sottish and bewildered people worshipped a great number of beasts, reptiles, yea, the very pulse and roots of their gardens; as onions, leeks, &c. were invoked in necessity, and depended upon for succour and protection; the ox, the dog, the wolf, the hawk, the crocodile, the ibis, the cat, were accounted objects of worship; and so jealous were they of their honour, that it was death for any person to kill one of these animals voluntarily.

It appears from Scripture history, that during the abode of the Israelites in Egypt, notwithstanding their cruel bondage and superior light, they at length degenerated into part of the idolatry of the Egyptians; and probably, the golden calf set up in the wilderness, and the calf which Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, set up afterwards, were imitations of this Egyptian bull Apis. To these we may add the horrid custom of shedding human

Revelation of the Truth.—Translation of the Scriptures.

blood to appease these animals ; yea, such was their deplorable ignorance, base stupidity, infatuation, and want of natural affection, that a blind fear drove parents to sacrifice their own offspring.

What a melancholy and dreadful picture of human degeneracy is here ! that a nation the most refined and polite, which boasted of its antiquity and superiority over all others, in invention, discoveries, wisdom, and learning, should so exceed others in their gross, absurd, and cruel superstitions and idolatries. What a necessity for a divine revelation, and what an unspeakable blessing then is the gift of the Bible, which clearly reveals, that Saviour “who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light by the Gospel.”

The succession of fine weather we now enjoyed, afforded frequent opportunities of intercourse with the shore, by which we obtained supplies of sheep, poultry, eggs, and a variety of fine fruits, &c.

After the surrender of Rosetta, Rahmanie, &c. our ship was appointed to receive the French who had capitulated, in order to their being conveyed to France ; they generally exhibited countenances expressive of satisfaction. Some of them were men of observation, and having travelled Egypt, and explored much of its celebrated country, their conversation on these subjects became interesting.

During the reigns of the Ptolemies, the Jews were much encouraged in Egypt, and Ptolemy Philadelphus, or his son, caused the Scriptures to be translated into the Greek language, then generally known, which, with the dispersion of the Jews into almost every country, enlightened the nations, struck at the foundation of idolatry, and prepared mankind for the manifestations of the Messiah, “who destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light by the Gospel.”

CHAP XX.

*Providential Preservation of the Sacred Scriptures —
 Their unspeakable Value — Caution — Departure
 — Anticipation,*

THE preservation of the Scriptures during so many ages, calls for increasing gratitude and admiration, as a marvellous display of infinite wisdom goodness, and power, demonstrating its Author, amidst the fall of empires, kingdoms, and states, the change of manners, customs, and the whole face of worldly affairs, the mutability of languages, the wars of bigotry, and rage of persecution, the devastation of the sword, pestilence, fire, and earthquake, the determined enmity, subtle and deep laid schemes of the scourgers of mankind, and enemies to truth and goodness, to root out, as it were, every vestige of the sacred writings, and to extirpate the very name of Jew and Christian out of the earth.

“ To the Bible we owe all the best laws in our civil institution; to the Bible, Europe is indebted for much of the liberty it now enjoys; the Bible, too, was the means of preserving the small share of learning which was cultivated during the dark ages; and to this blessed Book we owe a certain political law in government, and in war a certain law of nations, which softens its horrors, and presages its final termination.”

Witness our own happy land. What were Britons before the introduction of Christianity, but among the most savage of nations, and most stupid and cruel idolaters. To such an height did the authority of the Druids extend, that besides the severe penalties which they held belonged to them, to inflict in this world, they added the doctrine of transmigration of souls, and by this means extended their authority beyond the grave itself.

Contrast.—True Experience.

Contrast this gross ignorance, cruelty, and idolatry, with the present state and circumstances of Great Britain; what a force of evidence presses on the considerate mind. The votaries of infidelity would do well to consider this, and they are loudly called on to consider it with impartiality. Whence arises this striking discrimination of character between countries enveloped in thick darkness, and the same countries enlightened by Divine Revelation? What cause shall we assign, why the humble cottager of our island can prove his superiority, in the most important subjects, over Socrates or Plato? The answer is immediate and direct—"Life and immortality are brought to light through the Gospel." What is the world without a Divine Revelation, but a system without a sun; by its light the horrors of the grave are dispelled, and death is viewed as a messenger to introduce the soul of the believer into mansions of unspeakable bliss and glory.

And what can the cheerless and gloomy system of infidelity produce, to satisfy the soul? "What are its hopes, even in a time of health and prosperity? It has none, except this poor, grovelling, fluctuating hope, that life shall be protracted a little longer.—Whether there be a state beyond the grave, it is unable with certainty to tell; it is afraid to enquire, from a misgiving mind, which it strives in vain to overcome. The believer expects to triumph over death, to survive the present system of things, to prolong his pleasures thro' an endless duration. This happiness arises not from a cold, ignorant assent to the gospel, but from a gracious perception of its truth and glory—it is seen to be "worthy of all acceptation," and known to be "the power of God unto salvation," producing "the peace which passeth all understanding."—This knowledge will completely secure against the arts of infidelity, for no reasoning against the Scriptures will persuade a man in contradiction to experience.

Important Caution.

The attentive reader, and serious enquirer after truth, will readily excuse this digression, if such it is esteemed, which to the author at least, appears fully justified by the importance of the subject to every reader, and the desire he feels, of introducing something beneficial to the wavering and unhappy mind. And as he hopes this volume may become a companion to the young and inconsiderate on board ship, who are often embarked on a long voyage, and in a manner imprisoned and surrounded with infidel companions, or of "fools, that make a mock of sin," and who will endeavour to make their inexperienced minds a prey to their sophistical arguments, by taking them by surprise. He trusts these extracts and hints will apprise them of their danger, and lead them to detect and expose the insidious designs of these most cruel of enemies. Having been harassed and perplexed with the specious and fallacious insinuations of infidels and sceptics himself, he would caution his young and inexperienced readers against their stratagems, with the same earnest solicitude for their welfare with which a mariner, sensible of his merciful preservation from shipwreck, would erect a beacon, or make a signal to warn others of their danger, and point to a place of security.

Early in July we received intelligence of the capitulation of Grand Cairo, the capital of lower Egypt, which became peculiarly pleasing, as it was surrendered without loss on either side; the French troops were soon conducted by the Nile and the Delta, to Rosetta, and embarked, generally in high spirits, on board the vessels appointed, and conveyed home.

We continued to be well supplied, not only from the immediate coasts, but from those more distant. Several of the celebrated ports of antiquity, furnished us with sea stock. The proximity of other renowned countries, as Tyre, Sidon, Palestine, Jerusa-

lem,* &c. are calculated to excite much interest.†—The inhabitants of Tyre and Sidon, situated as in the bosom of these coasts, by their extraordinary application to navigation and commerce, excited the admiration and envy of the most civilized and commercial cotemporary nations; they were then the most enterprizing and indefatigable navigators, and considering their want of so many discoveries and instruments which are now deemed essential to this important art, their exertions and success were indeed wonderful. They traversed the Mediterranean, planted colonies in Spain, founded Carthage on the plan of Tyre, and not confining themselves to narrow seas, they at length, without compass or quadrant, boldly launched into the Atlantic Ocean, reached our happy island, then barbarous; and in the time of Pharoah Necho, King of Egypt, are said to have discovered a passage from the Red Sea round Africa, to the Mediterranean, about 1800 years before the wonderful properties of the loadstone were providentially discovered and applied to purposes of navigation.

These countries will be peculiarly familiar to the attentive and grateful readers of the Bible. The names of Bethlehem, and Nazareth, Jerusalem, and Joppa, Galilee, Zebulon, Naphtalim, Tyre, and Sidon, Canaan, Lebanon, &c. will be considered with gratitude, as descriptive of the momentous scenes of our Lord's incarnation, life, sufferings, death, resurrection and ascension.

The time of our departure for England approaching, we were busily engaged in procuring supplies for our

* The writer wished to have visited Jerusalem, and had formed a plan for that purpose, but was precluded that pleasure.

† The very mention of these places connects with them a series of the most momentous and interesting events, furnishing to lovers of history, an ample field for contemplation; but particularly and peculiarly interesting to the man of Biblical learning, who alone can appreciate their value, enter into and understand and explain the origin and progress, rise and fall of nations.

Fulfilment of Prophecy.—Cyprian.

After several long wars and desperate struggles for superiority, during which that horrible sentiment became predominant, "Carthage or Rome must fall." The third and last Punic war terminated in the destruction of Carthage, about 146 years before Christ. So jealous was the Roman Senate of this city, that orders were given, in the name of the Romans, that it should never be inhabited again; all other Carthaginian places were made tributary; thus it became a province of Rome, who having subdued this formidable rival, aspired to, and in a great measure attained universal empire.

Notwithstanding the Roman mandate, Carthage was again colonized, and in the times of Julius Cæsar and Strabo, was of considerable note, but as a province of Rome. Cyprian, a venerable and pious bishop, resided here, and many other pastors, who were blessings to their flocks and the country. This venerable bishop was at length persecuted to death, and such was the attachment of his flock, that many followed him to the place of execution, sympathiz-

had surrendered, to capture the island: to effect this, historians relate, that the king of Babylon ordered the strange and unusual service for his men to convey an immense quantity of stone and rubbish, so as to form a causeway whereon his army might pass to subjugate Tyre on the island; also in accomplishing this, the soldiers were obliged to carry loads on their heads and shoulders, in doing which, it may naturally be supposed, that the part so continually exposed to friction would loose the hair, and in some instances the skin. Here then is the exact fulfilment of this prophecy, "Every head bald, and every shoulder peeled." They continued to possess considerable power and commerce, till Alexander besieged it, when they had wisdom enough secretly to convey a colony to Africa, and founded Carthage. After its conquest by Alexander, Tyre never recovered itself, but after various events, dwindled into a place for fishermen only, and here again marked the fulfilment of another prophecy, "*It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God; and it shall become a spoil to the nations.*" *

* Ezekiel.

ing and exclaiming—"Let us also go and be beheaded with him."

After the fall of Rome, the Goths and Vandals got possession of Carthage, who were dispossessed by the Saracens, and they again by the Arabs. It was subject to the Ottoman yoke in the reign of Selim II. since which they have been governed by Deys, persons of note, chosen by the principal inhabitants, who generally have the sanction of the Port. The Mahometan religion prevails throughout these coasts.

Tunis is considerable for trade, opulence and manufactures, which is said to excel all others in Barbary, in the labours of the loom. The inhabitants consist of Turks, Moors, Jews, Arabians and Christians; they trade chiefly in woollen, linen, corn, morocco leather, oil, hides, fruit, &c., with Spain, France, England, Egypt, Levant, and neighbouring states; from whom they import wine, iron, steel, paper, wool, cloth, &c. Their commerce is carried on with these nations by a combination of different languages.

The coast of Algiers now appeared in sight; the piracy and slavery so generally perpetrated by its inhabitants, tend to excite horror in the minds of seamen, and by striking contrast, eminently calculated to endear our beloved country, Great Britain, where religious and civil liberty are enjoined; but, alas! superior privileges much abused. May national reformation be considered and acted on, as the basis of national happiness. Let us exult, that the most aggravated of Britain's, sins in a natural and moral sense, hath received its death-blow, let us hope it is the prelude to complete reformation; may the excellent laws for the observance of the sabbath,* and all others for the suppression of vice, be enforced with mildness, and when necessity requires, with firmness

* See a Letter to Mr. Vansittart, &c. published May 1819.

Departure from Egypt.—Revisit Malta.

passage; sheep, fowls, eggs, vegetables, and fruits were obtained in abundance, which furnished a grateful supply to our sick during our voyage to Malta, many of whose drooping spirits revived, and countenances brightened at the anticipation of reaching the happy shores of England.

“Already Britain’s parent cliffs arise,
And in idea greet the longing eyes.”

Dissatisfied and uneasy in my present situation, and determined to embrace the first opportunity of relinquishing, early in July I cheerfully obeyed the grateful signal to repair on board another ship, for a passage to England; on the 6th weighed, and came to sail with a fine northerly breeze, which continuing, privileged us with a sea view of Alexandria, again calculated to raise and expand the powers of the mind, by a consideration and contemplation of its history, as connected with this celebrated country.

Among the number of our passengers was one of an extraordinary description, a camelion, which was often introduced on the mess-table, and excited admiration. He continued to entertain us while in the hot climates, but it was painful to observe the progress to inaction, as we approached the more northern latitudes.

On the 11th we passed the celebrated island of Cyprus, now deprived of its ancient splendour; it still produces abundance of excellent wines, which has furnished us with a good supply for some months past.

With a continuance of fine weather, and a succession of moderate and light winds and calms, we proceeded; on the 26th discovered the island of Malta, and in the afternoon anchored in its friendly and commodious harbour, where we were put under quarantine. The harbour being between two high hills, and calms prevailing, with a clear sun, made it intensely hot.

Leave Malta.—Barbary.

Having remained here four days, and obtained a plentiful supply of vegetables and fruit, with light breezes and fair weather, we took our departure, and soon saw the coast of Barbary about Tunis, got embarked at the eastward of Cape Bon, owing to a strong unexpected S. W. current, which often prevails; and such is the indraught, that it is dangerous to be caught here with a strong Levant wind, to prevent which, I would hint to mariners, that under such circumstances, it is advisable to keep to the southward, and make the west end of Sicily.

Barbary begins at the West of Egypt; the whole country generally included under its name, extends from Egypt to the Atlantic Ocean, a length of about 2000 miles, mostly of coast.

The ancient history of Tunis is connected with Carthage, which appears to have been founded by a colony from Tyre,* and after the model of that celebrated city; and the union between the mother country and colony was in the greatest distresses and adversities inviolably preserved. Carthage always paid a reverential regard to Tyre, which was generally expressed by an annual embassy and presents.

* The reader's attention has been called to the exact fulfilment of prophecy respecting the fall of Babylon, &c. (See preceding note) let me now beg his attention to those predictions respecting Egypt, as also the following from the prophecies of Isaiah:—"Son of man Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, served a great service against Tyre, &c."

"I will give him Egypt for his wages, &c." The sublimity and comprehensiveness of Scripture must strike the mind, in connection with its heavenly doctrines, promises, and precepts, as for instance, in the above short sentence is included the overthrow of celebrated Tyre, and the reward to Babylon as an instrument in Jehovah's hand for that overthrow: here then, in this one verse is folded up all the events, the great events, as it concerns these nations and the world at large, arising out of this remarkable siege of Tyre.

Nebuchadnezzar besieged Tyre thirteen years, and as the citizens inhabited the neighbouring island, as well as the continent, it became an arduous labour, even after the continental part of Tyre

True National Happiness.

too. May the great at length see and feel their obligations to set good examples to all within their influence, and consider it an honour to encourage every institution for promoting the best interests of mankind; may the institution of schools, for the religious and moral education of the rising generation, be considered as a great national object, and the time soon come when every poor child in the nation, shall learn to read, love, and reverence the Bible. Above all, let the friends of humanity rejoice that the gospel will be abundantly blessed; may this only genuine source of true morality, and consequently of national peace, happiness, and prosperity, send forth its regenerating and purifying streams over the British empire, and soon reach, with its powerful and humanizing influences, Barbary, and all other lands of ignorance, superstition, violence and misery.

CHAP. XXI.

Coast of Algiers—Spain—Arrival at Gibraltar—Infirm State of the Ship—Departure—Arrival in England—Conclusion.

THE winds being light, and mostly contrary, we were several days detained on the coast of Algiers, which is in general mountainous and barren, and abounds with a number of round towers close to the sea.

The climate all along these coasts is mild, and the air in general salubrious; the government generally arbitrary and despotic. On the 14th we approached the more beautiful and fertile coast of Spain, near Cape Pallos and Carthagenia. Spoke the Greyhound, who gave us the pleasing and interesting intelligence that negotiations for a general peace had commenced; several on board exulted even at the sound, hoping it would soon be accomplished, and be solid and durable.

Poignant Regret.—Writer's Decision.—Reflection on Peace.

On the evacuation of Egypt by the French and English, the hearts of governments were disposed to, and consequently peace soon took place, which terminated all the horrors of revolutionary war, and rejoiced every feeling heart. In proportion to this joy was the greatest distress and regret experienced at the sudden rupture which followed. Ordered with others again to embark, the writer, grieved and dissatisfied, felt it his duty, he hopes conscientiously, to decline. Peace is again mercifully restored; may the solemn pledges published by the sovereigns of Europe, in congress assembled, to rule for the benefit of mankind, and thus be instrumental in preserving peace and harmony among nations be realized, to which every feeling heart will say, Amen.

The next day we passed close along by Carthage-
nia, with a favourable breeze and delightful weather.

We continued pleasantly sailing by a picturesque coast, with the vast mountains of Granada in the back ground, the tops of which were capped with snow, a striking and delightful contrast to the landscape beneath. We passed close in by the coasts of Malaga, a continuation of the same interesting country; indeed the coast from Cape de Gatt to Gibraltar, is one delightful picture of nature, the air beneficial, and the soil fertile.

The mountains numerous and lofty, many of them frequently topped with snow; the beautiful declivities and vallies beneath, the neat white cottages seen by and among the trees and vineyards, the harbours and fishing towns near the fine beaches, and watch-towers all along the coast, present a picture of industry, sublimity and beauty, rarely equalled.

It is worthy of observation and admiration, that the finest vines appear mostly in the roughest grounds, on the declivities, and even summits of these eminences, where a stranger to the nature and cultivation of the vine, would suppose they could not obtain

nourishment ; yet vines planted on these rugged places, produce those delicious grapes, which make the Malaga wine, so much known and esteemed in England, by the name of Mountain when it is white, and Tent when it is coloured ; the wonder increases when the natural history of the vine is taken into consideration.

It appears that the sap flows through the vine with six times the force the blood does in the veins of animals ; farther, the evaporation of the vine is so great, that to supply what is exhaled through the leaves, naturalists inform us, that one hundred and fifty-two inches of sap must rise in this tree in twenty-four hours ; what a vast exhalation, what an astonishing rapidity, and vast supply, and all exhibited among such unpromising appearances. How many useful reflections arise from such a subject ! Who has endued the vine with such spirit and energy, with qualities so superior to the meanness of its origin and barrenness of its soil ? Who, but that God, who created, preserves, and governs the universe, who regenerates the soul, and conforms it to his divine image, and will ultimately bring every renewed soul to behold its Redeemer in glory. Here I would take occasion to remind the serious reader of the beautiful allusion which our Lord makes to the vine and its branches, as a figure of himself and people. And when we consider the humble appearance of Jesus in every point of view —“ As a root out of a dry ground, having no form nor comeliness.” —compared to the unpromising aspect of the vine, it must be confessed, that nothing can be more suitable and apposite. As the branches rise out of this forbidding stock, and get strength, become fruitful and prolific ; so his believing people, “ receiving of his fulness, grace for grace, bring forth fruit copiously, some thirty, sixty, and some an hundred fold.”

After a long, but on the whole not unpleasant passage, on the 20th of August, having been within sight

Gibraltar.—Pious Men on the Rock.

of the rock several days, we again anchored in the Bay of Gibraltar. Our ship being much out of repair, and having been considerably affected during the few moderate gales we experienced in our passage from Egypt, we were anxious to proceed, in hopes of anchoring in Old England, before the gales of the autumnal equinox rose the mountainous billows of the Bay of Biscay; but the wind blowing fresh from the westward, detained us here several days, and I took other opportunities of exploring this extraordinary rock, and discovered that there were a company of pious soldiers and others, who shine as lights in this dark place, and give evidence, by their lives, of their separation from the world, and induce their very enemies to say "there must be something good in these men."

Being increasingly apprehensive that a detention at Gibraltar might expose us to the equinoctial gales before the ship reached the Channel, we were anxious to proceed; and after several attempts to get through the Streights, finally accomplished it on the 23d, and soon passed into the Bay of Cadiz.

This launch, if I may so call it, from the Streights into the vast Atlantic, has something very interesting in it, and the ocean presents a picture of sublimity and magnificence, heightened in contrast with the confined avenue just left, eminently calculated to call up attention, admiration and delight. A prosperous breeze soon lessened the shores of Africa, to a final farewell, and by a circuitous course, we reached the Bay of Cadiz, received letters that were ready for England, of the British Admiral, Sir James Saumarez, whose excellent plan of discipline, the author was informed, prevents an oath being heard on board his large and full manned ship. What a contrast is here to the generality of our shipping; how worthy of imitation: may our commanders and seamen increasingly see the necessity of the fear of the Lord, which is

Proceed for England.—Sublime Description.

wisdom, and learn to reverence and love that omnipotent and gracious Being, who, to use the sublimity of Scripture, “Gathered the winds in his fist, who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance! He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.” Who said “let there be light, and there was light”—and to the tempestuous billows, “hitherto shalt thou come, but no further, and here shall thy proud waves be stayed! and who so loved the world, that he gave HIS only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Anxious to proceed, and the breeze favourable, we were pleasantly borne over the Bay to Cape St. Vincent, swiftly passing the western coast of Portugal, we had a good sight of the rock of Lisbon, which was the last view of land till the blue cliffs of Albion made their appearance.

Having at length brought the candid reader near the conclusion of the narrative, the author would again remind him of what, he trusts, has been evinced and discovered during his perusal of these series of events, observations and reflections, that his principal aim has been, to call up the attention to a glimpse only, for he can pretend to no more, of the wonder working power of Almighty God in creation, providence, and grace; the connection between them, and to view the attributes of the Deity, shining with distinguished lustre, in the works of redemption—

“ ’Twas great to speak a world from nought,
 ’Twas greater to redeem!”

“ To which the noblest parts of this system of the world are as much inferior as the creature is less excellent than the Creator.” And if, but one of his

Bay of Biscay.—Peculiar Description.

readers, any votary of voyages, travels, &c. is hereby brought to penetrate beyond that superficial method of reading so prevalent, and perceive and embrace the true end of information, which is to make men wise and happy, he is amply compensated.

We soon entered the Bay of Biscay. This wonderful reservoir, if I may so call it, exhibits, in a dark tempestuous night, the most awful and solemn views the imagination can well conceive, and the serious mind is forcibly reminded of that ancient and full description—"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths; their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them to their desired haven. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Psalm cvii. Alas! how seldom is the latter part verified by the generality of seamen.

The storms and mountainous seas of this wonderful inlet, have been often described, but language fails to convey to landmen, adequate conceptions of an equinoctial storm, in this boundary of the Atlantic Ocean. Our crazy bark, visited by a fresh gale, only caused a degree of anxiety for our safety, and had it been adverse to our course, imminent must have been our danger; but providentially blowing from a right quarter, it bore us over the bounding billows at the rate of eight and ten miles an hour, to the entrance of the English Channel, and with

smoother water and moderate breezes, we proceeded for the land. Beyond our most flattering expectation, did a merciful Providence bring us through this dangerous bay. But alas! transient were the sensations of gratitude to our Almighty Guardian. How strikingly descriptive is the profession of a seaman, of the voyage of life; the considerate mariner will, with pleasure pursue the comparison, and the religious seaman will especially trace, and with peculiar gratitude acknowledge his temporal deliverances from storm and shipwreck, rocks and sands, as reminding him of the infinitely greater interposition of his God and Father, in saving his immortal soul out of the hands of all its enemies. Two of the noblest scenes in creation, court his contemplation; the boundless heavens, and capacious ocean, and tracing the Author through his works, his grateful heart will exult and expand, and the tear of exquisite joy will burst forth at the thought, that the Maker, Preserver, and Controller of them all, lived, died, rose, ascended, and now and ever intercedes for me!

On the 3d descried land, and the wind and weather continuing favourable, we soon beheld the desirable shores of our happy island. The convalescents came on deck, and greeted even the very rocks of their native country; and the diseased, unable to leave their beds, appeared cheered at the mention of its name, and revived when encouraged to believe, that by to-morrow night we might cast anchor in one of its spacious and fostering harbours.

We soon passed Falmouth, Plymouth, and Torbay, and on the morning of the 5th, the westernmost entrance of Portsmouth harbour, called the Needles, and with a favourable breeze, passed the celebrated Isle of Wight, which combined with the harbours, shipping, and opposite shore, continued to exhibit their successive beauties, and conspired to exhilarate

Arrival at Portsmouth.—Conclusion.

every dejected mind among our sick, and to vibrate with pleasing hope on the imaginations of all.

In a few hours we cast anchor, and soon after moored in one of the finest harbours in our happy island. Sensations of thankfulness were generally felt at our safe arrival, and a few ascriptions of gratitude were also uttered to our Almighty Protector and Preserver; but alas! these, in general, were too much like the recent furrow of the keel, whose traces vanish while the eye is intent on it.

On a retrospective consideration of the various countries visited during these voyages and travels, and of the comparative happiness enjoyed in each, the conclusion is decidedly in favour of Britain, and I am persuaded, that this is the general sentiment of those who have travelled and compared. Happy islands! where religious and civil liberty are well understood, but, alas! how abused. Witness the awful and increasing sin of sabbath-breaking, so loudly calling for Divine visitation at the present hour, (May, 1819.) May the inhabitants of this country know their privileges, and learn, increasingly learn, to appreciate their value. May permanent peace bless thy borders. May luxury, with all its train of evils, soon follow the abolition of slavery; may vice and dissipation be banished, and national reformation be zealously and actively considered as the basis of national happiness. Above all, may the pure religion of the Gospel of peace soon extend its healing beams over every dark heart and dark corner of thy domain, and by thy instrumentality, may the light of the Sun of Righteousness, contained in the Holy Book, be diffused over the remote and benighted parts of the habitable globe. "Happy is that people that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord." Psalm cxliv. 15.

FINIS.

Collins, Francis

Voyages to Portugal, Spain, Sicily, Malta, Asia-Minor, Egypt, ... from 1796
to 1801 with an historical sketch, notes, and reflections

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